

Hafa Adai!

Initial hearing for Torres' lawsuit set for February. **Page 2**
Man who stabbed dead another in 2002 is paroled. **PAGE 3**

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NMI records 21st COVID death

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The CNMI recorded its 21st COVID-19-related death last Friday, even as a total of 103 individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI between Jan. 13 and Jan. 14.

House to select impeachment managers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that they will soon be selecting the impeachment managers in the trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at the Senate.

In response to Saipan Tribune's inquiry about the House's next step regarding the impeachment, Villagomez said for now, they are just waiting on the Senate in terms of their rules for their part of

» **Source: Convicting Torres at Senate trial an uphill battle**

the process.

The speaker said the impeachment managers have to be from the House of Representatives. He did not indicate how many impeachment managers will be chosen.



Villagomez

The impeachment managers will serve as prosecutors during the trial at the Senate.

Villagomez also disclosed that the articles of impeach-

See HOUSE on Page 4

CNMI updates entry protocols, 5th-day tests required

Effective yesterday, Jan. 16, 2022, all travelers entering the CNMI by air or sea will be tested for COVID-19 on arrival and must report to their scheduled fifth-day testing.

For inbound travelers whose final destination is either Rota

or Tinian, their fifth-day test will be scheduled in their respective final destination's health center.

According to a Saturday news release from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., it said the safety of CNMI res-

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

» **103 new positive cases identified**

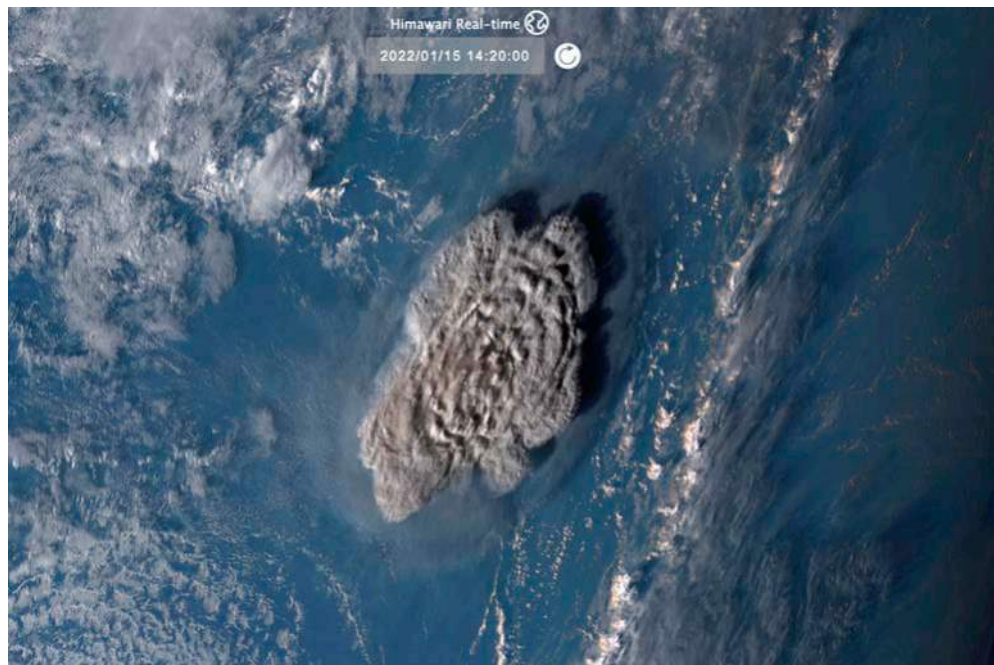
confirmed the latest COVID-19-related fatality in a news release last Friday. The news release did not disclose

more details about the case, as per standard CHCC protocol.

Separately, CHCC reported that 66 individuals were con-

See NMI on Page 4

Tsunami threat recedes from huge Pacific volcanic eruption



By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The tsunami

threat around the Pacific from a huge undersea volcanic eruption began to recede Sunday, while the extent of damage to Tonga remained unclear.

Satellite images showed the spectacular eruption that took place Saturday evening, with a plume of ash, steam and gas rising like a mushroom above the blue Pacific waters. A sonic boom could be heard as far away as Alaska.

In Tonga it sent tsunami waves crashing across the

This satellite image taken by Himawari-8, a Japanese weather satellite operated by Japan Meteorological Agency and released by National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, shows an undersea volcano eruption at the Pacific nation of Tonga Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022.

shore and people rushing to higher ground.

The eruption cut the internet to Tonga, leaving friends and

See TSUNAMI on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:44pm, Jan. 16, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **97.7%**
Fully Vaccinated: **97.7%**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,203
Fully Vaccinated:	35,869
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,307
Fully Vaccinated:	5,120
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,117

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	22,479	839 ¹	23,318
Recovered	19,271	119	19,390
Active	2,815	839	3,654
Deaths	274	0	274

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,751	154 ²	3,905
Traced via Travel Screening	387	36	423
Traced via Community Screening	3,364	118	3,482
Deaths	20	1	21

¹1/16=203; 1/15=198; 1/14=438
²1/15=37; 1/14=66; 1/13=51

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

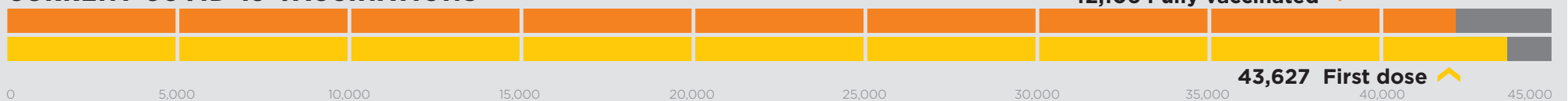
LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

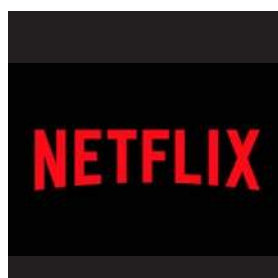
Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

42,106 Fully vaccinated



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Netflix is raising prices for its video streaming customers in the United States and Canada.

Page 11



NATION

A man held hostages for more than 10 hours at a Texas synagogue. He was later killed.

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LIFE & STYLE

Prince Andrew is stripped of his honorary military roles and loses his HRH status.

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Local

Initial hearing for Torres' lawsuit set for February

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court is set to hear Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' lawsuit against the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations next month.

Timothy Bellas, Superior Court judge pro tempore, will hear the lawsuit filed by Torres

against the JGO committee, as well as the committee's recent motion to dismiss the lawsuit, on Feb. 18, at 9am.

Bellas will serve as the judge in this initial proceeding because Torres, through his lawyers, Gil Birnrich and Joseph Horey, have yet to file an official motion in opposition to the judge's appointment to this case, despite Torres

already discussing in public Bellas capacity to be impartial in this case.

During the hearing, the court will address the JGO's recent motion to dismiss Torres' lawsuit. The committee's lawyers claim that the JGO is protected under the CNMI Constitution's speech or debate clause, which provides them immu-

nity from being sued.

According to the recent motion filed by JGO counsels Brendan Layde and Joseph Taijeron Jr., the CNMI Constitution's speech or debate clause is intended to protect legislators from harassment by the Executive Branch, including "the burden of defending meritless lawsuits."

"The speech or debate

clause protects the JGO committee from harassment such as this lawsuit as it exercises legislative oversight. It has absolute immunity for acts, such as the subpoena for the governor to testify, that fall within the sphere of legitimate legislative activity. The suit must therefore be dismissed under Rule 12(b)(6)," the motion stated.

Last month, Torres and the Office of the Governor sued the JGO committee over its decision to hold him in contempt. Torres wants the Superior Court to declare that the JGO committee's subpoena

invalid and unlawful.

Torres, in his complaint, stated that his is suing the JGO committee for violation of Commonwealth statute in issuing the subpoena, infringement upon the testimonial immunity conferred by the Commonwealth Constitution, lacking valid legislative purpose in violation of the Commonwealth Constitution, and usurping responsibilities constitutionally delegated to other executive offices in violation of the Commonwealth Constitution.

In addition, Torres also asks the court to quash the subpoena and stop the committee from enforcing the subpoena.

CSC to hear terminated firefighters' case in February

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

After a prehearing conference back in October, the Civil Service Commission has officially set a date to hear the appeal filed by the nine firefighters who were terminated for refusing to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Joseph Horey, counsel to the nine terminated firefighters, told *Saipan Tribune* that the commission will hear his clients' appeal on Feb. 21.

The nine firefighters are still holding out hope and awaiting the commission's decision on their appeal following the Superior Court's denial of their

requested preliminary injunction for reinstatement.

The firefighters previously sued the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola for wrongful termination. In doing so, they also filed for a preliminary injunction asking the court to order their reinstatement.

However, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho denied their request because the court currently has no jurisdiction over the case because a Civil Service Commission appeal is pending.

"Given that the appeal at the Civil Service Commission is still pending, and the request-

ed remedy restoring plaintiff's employment is a remedy available through the administrative appeals process, the plaintiffs have yet to exhaust administrative remedies. Until the Civil Service Commission issues its decision, the Superior Court cannot issue a judicial remedy," he said.

Camacho explained that before the firefighters can pursue judicial review of their case, they must first exhaust all administrative remedies, meaning they must first complete the Civil Service Commission appeal process before bringing their case to court.

"Here, the plaintiffs are awaiting a scheduled Civil

Services Commission hearing, which they requested, and their appeal process is therefore not yet at Step 6. They have not yet received a Civil Services Commission decision, which would mark the completion of Step 7, and at which point they will be deemed to have exhausted administrative remedies, allowing them to bring an action for judicial review before this court. Instead, plaintiffs have skipped to Step 8 while they have not yet completed Step 6, failing to complete the intra-agency appeal process. Thus, plaintiffs' untimely and precipitate claim before this court is in violation of the exhaustion of administrative remedies requirement," he said.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At 11:51am during a break at the House of Representatives' session last Wednesday when they impeached Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) would take a glimpse through the glass doors of the Legislature Building at the two groups of people that were gathered in front of the building. Babauta saw that the Torres supporters outnumbered the pro-impeachment group. Babauta was heard saying there's plenty of government workers. A police officer who was near her said the decision is inside the House and not outside.

As some people were expressing their opinion about a resolution to impeach Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during the House of Representatives session's public comment portion Wednesday, Torres and his family members visited a group of his supporters in front of the Legislature building on Capital Hill. Torres, with his wife Diann Tudela Torres beside him, gave brief remarks, thanking them their presence. He stated, among other things, that he requested to pass a simple resolution to give \$500 bonus to government retirees before Christmas, yet the Democrat Party-controlled House neglected it and instead focused on his impeachment.

See **REPORTERS** on Page 4

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From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider and the Members of the 22nd Senate Commonwealth Legislature

Man who stabbed dead another in 2002 is paroled

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Majority of the CNMI Board of Parole voted in favor of granting early release for a man who was convicted of first-degree murder in 2006 for stabbing another man to death in 2002.

After serving a third of his sentence, Francisco Aguon Pua was granted parole following the Board of Parole's two-day deliberation that ended last Friday.

According to board chair Ramon B. Camacho, major-

ity of the board voted in favor of granting parole for Pua, as well as Eric Rabauliman, a man who was also convicted of first-degree murder. Meanwhile, the board denied parole for Jesse James Camacho, a man convicted of first-degree murder; Robert Kotep Shineachi who was imprisoned for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree; and Clifford Jack Palacios, who was found guilty of theft.

Camacho said Pua will be released around this week as parole officers must first process and complete the paper

work and have Pua undergo an orientation.

The board chair said he personally voted in favor of granting parole for Pua because he believes in allowing inmates to transition back into society if they have served at least a third of their sentence and have shown good conduct while imprisoned.

"I personally based my decision on their conduct and I believe in transitioning inmates back into society. As part of [Pua's] sentence, the court said that after serving a third of the sentence, they are eligible for parole," he said.

Camacho added that Pua will be released with a set of conditions, including close monitoring by parole officers.

"We release these inmates with a set of conditions. It's not like they will be full-fledged free men. [Pua] will be closely monitored by parole officers. That's the mission of our parole officers. If [he] fails any of the conditions that the board imposes on [him], based on the recommendation of the officers, we could revoke their parole and [he] will be placed back in DOC," he said.

Rota board member Ignacio Mendiola wanted to clarify

for the public that he voted against granting parole for Pua. "For the record, of all the five applicants, I voted no for all five parolees," he said.

Meanwhile, Tinian board member Michael San Nicolas said he voted in favor of granting Pua parole because he believes in giving people who have shown good conduct the benefit of the doubt.

"I voted yes to granting parole based on what I observed on [his] records. I also want to give [him] the benefit of the doubt that [he] will now abide by CNMI law. It was a very tough decision but I had to make that decision," he said.

The other board members

declined to comment.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Pua has served 16 years of his 50-year sentence for the murder Mostofa Faruk Parves back in 2002, a Bangladeshi national employed as an attendant at Candi's Poker.

Pua managed walk free for three years following the heinous crime, with police finally arresting him in 2005.

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 10 a.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

2) Public Comments

3) Committee Reports

- CNMI TRIP Korea
- Air Busan

4) New Business

- Reprogramming Funds: Tinian Pika Fest

6) Executive Session

7) Miscellaneous/Announcements

8) Adjournment

/s/ Viola Alepuyo

Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



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TSUNAMI

From Page 1

family members around the world anxiously trying to get in touch to figure out if there were any injuries and the extent of the damage. Even government websites and other official sources remained without updates on Sunday afternoon.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said there had not yet been any official reports of injuries or deaths in Tonga, but cautioned that authorities hadn't yet made contact with some coastal areas and smaller islands.

"Communication with Tonga remains very limited. And I know that is causing a huge amount of anxiety for the Tongan community here," Ardern said.

She said there had been significant damage to boats and shops along the Tongan coastline. The capital, Nuku'alofa, was covered in a thick film of volcanic dust, Ardern said, contaminating water supplies and making fresh water a vital need.

Aid agencies said thick ash and smoke had prompted authorities to ask people to wear masks and drink bottled water.



MARY LYN FONUA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

This picture taken on Dec. 21, 2021, shows white gaseous clouds rising from the Hunga Ha'apai eruption seen from the Patangata coastline near Tongan capital Nuku'alofa.

Ardern said New Zealand was unable to send a military surveillance flight over Tonga on Sunday because the ash cloud was 63,000 feet (19,000 meters) high but they hoped to send the flight on Monday, followed by supply planes and navy ships.

One complicating factor to any international aid effort is that Tonga has so far managed to avoid any outbreaks of COVID-19. Ardern said New Zealand's military staff were all fully vaccinated and willing to follow any protocols established by Tonga.

Dave Snider, the tsunami warning coordinator for the

National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska, said it was very unusual for a volcanic eruption to affect an entire ocean basin, and the spectacle was both "humbling and scary."

The tsunami waves caused damage to boats as far away as New Zealand and Santa Cruz, California, but did not appear to cause any widespread damage. Snider said he anticipated the tsunami situation in the U.S. and elsewhere to continue improving.

Tsunami advisories were earlier issued for Japan, Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Pacific coast. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated the

eruption caused the equivalent of a magnitude 5.8 earthquake. Scientists said tsunamis generated by volcanoes rather than earthquakes are relatively rare.

The Tonga Meteorological Services said a tsunami warning was declared for all of the archipelago, and data from the Pacific tsunami center said waves of 80 centimeters (2.7 feet) were detected.

Rachel Afeaki-Taumoepeau, who chairs the New Zealand Tonga Business Council, said she hoped the relatively low level of the tsunami waves would have allowed most people to get to safety, although she worried about those living on islands closest to the volcano. She said she hadn't yet been able to contact her friends and family in Tonga.

"We are praying that the damage is just to infrastructure and people were able to get to higher land," she said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrote on Twitter he is "deeply concerned for the people of Tonga as they recover from the aftermath of a volcanic eruption and tsunami. The United States stands prepared to provide support to our Pacific neighbors."

Tonga gets its internet via

an undersea cable from Suva, Fiji. All internet connectivity with Tonga was lost at about 6:40 p.m. local time, said Doug Madory, director of internet analysis for the network intelligence firm Kentik.

On Tonga, which is home to about 105,000 people, video posted to social media showed large waves washing ashore in coastal areas

and swirling around homes, a church and other buildings. A Twitter user identified as Dr. Faka'iloatonga Taumoeolau posted video showing waves crashing ashore.

"Can literally hear the volcano eruption, sounds pretty violent," he wrote, adding in a later post: "Raining ash and tiny pebbles, darkness blanketing the sky."

REPORTERS

From Page 2

Torres said the whole House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's hearing process is no being fair. He said the JGO subpoenaed him to appear when they knew that they have no authority to do so. Torres received cheers and applause from his supporters. The pro-impeachment people that gathered in a tent next to the tent of Torres' supporters, remained quiet.

■■■

At 12:40pm or during lunch, some people were seen sitting on picnic tables under the tent of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' supporters, who also gathered in front of the Legislature building. At the pro-impeachment tent, there were some officials and supporters of NMI Democratic Party, as well as some supporters of Lt.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. Many of Torres' supporters were mostly government employees and some retirees.

■■■

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) is usually quite silent during House of Representatives' hearings and meetings. Yet during Wednesday's session, when the lawmakers discussed about a resolution to impeach Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, it was only San Nicolas who raised some questions/issues with the resolution that impeaches the governor. The three other lawmakers who voted "no" for the impeachment only delivered remarks during the session's miscellaneous portion where they are not allowed to debate. The session started at 10am and when it ended at 4:50pm, there were no cheers or hugging by lawmakers inside the House chamber.

CNMI

From Page 1

Today, Jan. 17, 2022, travelers with arrival dates of Jan. 10 through Jan. 15, 2022, will be given priority for follow-up testing, as early as their fifth day or as late as their seventh day after arrival, at any of the community-based testing sites located at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Rota Health Center, or Tinian Health Center, by presenting their confirmation number received upon completing their traveler's health declaration form.

Unvaccinated travelers are required to quarantine in a designated government facility for five days, and will be tested before leaving quarantine. Unvaccinated travelers

may quarantine in their home or lodging if they complete their mandatory health declaration form at least 72 hours prior to arrival, and after their home or lodging passes assessment (provide evidence they can safely isolate in their home or lodging for five days).

Fully vaccinated travelers will be tested at the port of entry and are allowed to wait for their test results in their home or lodging. While waiting for the results of their COVID-19 test, fully vaccinated travelers must limit their contact with others until results are received.

Fully vaccinated individuals are responsible for uploading onto their health declaration form proof of completing a COVID-19 vaccine series. The vaccination record must

include the following information: vaccine administrator, recipient's name, recipient's date of birth, vaccination site, vaccine name, vaccination administration date, lot number, and vaccine expiration date.

For travelers vaccinated outside the CNMI, in addition to the CDC Vaccination Record Card, an official immunization record or an attestation statement may be required by the CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team. The attestation statement confirms that the information provided in the health declaration form is true and is subject to CNMI laws that may lead to criminal fines. For individuals who were vaccinated in the CNMI, vaccination records from the

CHCC will be used to verify vaccination status.

Travelers seeking essential worker status must be fully vaccinated and must submit a negative PCR test with their application 72 hours prior to arrival via www.staysafecnmi.com.

All travelers are encouraged to fill out their health declaration form prior to arrival at www.staysafecnmi.com.

All travelers and residents are reminded to live COVID-19 safe: follow the 3 W's (wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance); avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19.

NMI

From Page 1

firmed positive for COVID-19 on Jan. 13. Of the 66, four were identified on Tinian, 24 were found through contact tracing, 18 through community testing, and 24 through travel testing.

CHCC reported in a subsequent news release that 37 cases were confirmed positive on Jan. 14. Of the 37, 23 were found through contact tracing, 11 through community testing, and three through travel testing.

The vaccination statuses of

the recent cases were pending verification. CHCC reported that all cases have since been isolated and are being actively monitored.

In its latest update, CHCC reported that, as of Jan. 15, there were nine individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: five unvaccinated, four vaccinated, and one on a ventilator. Two individuals were discharged.

As of Jan. 14, there have been 3,150 recoveries and 446 active cases of the cases identified since Oct. 28.

HOUSE

From Page 1

ment should have already been transmitted to the Senate and, if not, then it is in the process.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting the reply of Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) on a request for information as to what's the Senate first step pertaining to the impeachment matter.

The Democrat Party-controlled House approved last Wednesday the six articles of impeachment against Torres, making him the second governor in CNMI history to be impeached. With 15 "yes" votes, four "no" votes, and one abstention, the House passed House Resolution No. 22-14, impeaching Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

The impeachment votes set the stage for Torres' trial in the Senate, which will decide whether to acquit or convict and remove him from office.

The nine-member Senate is controlled by the Republicans. Torres is the titular head of the NMI Republican Party. The Senate will need a two-third vote—six votes—to convict and remove Torres.

A source at the Legislature said over the weekend that it would be an uphill battle to convict Torres since, unlike in the House, the Republicans are united in the Senate.

The Senate has six Republicans—Hofschneider, Francisco Q. Cruz, Karl R. King-Nabors, Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan, Justo S. Quitugua, and Victor B. Hocog. There are two independents—Teresita A. Santos and Paul A. Manglona—and one Democrat, Edith E. De-Leon Guerrero.

BACK-TO-BACK CALLS

This photo posted on the Facebook page of the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services shows several ambulances arriving at the same time at the Emergency Room of the Commonwealth Health Center. The photo was captioned as "just another day at the office with back-to-back calls."

DFEMS



With additional funding, CUC closer to 24-hour drinking water on Saipan

The CNMI will be receiving close to \$21 million a year for five years until 2026 through funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will go to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water and wastewater projects, moving CUC a step closer to its goal of achieving 24-hour "palatable" drinking water on Saipan.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho disclosed this in a brief interview Wednesday, during which he also said that achieving 24-hour drinking water on Saipan has been a goal of CUC for many years now.

"We're very excited that it looks like the EPA will continue to support and increase the funding source, potentially, for our water [and] wastewater programs over the next five years. ... That really should give us much closer or the ability to achieve 24-hour palatable drinking water on the island of Saipan in that period," said Camacho. "It's been an effort by many people over many years, and it looks like, finally, that we're starting to see the opportunity for these goals to [come to] fruition."

Public warned of high surf, rip currents

A high surf advisory remains in effect until noon today, Monday, while a high rip current risk also remains in effect through noon today.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet and dangerous rip

Separately, in a Dec. 5, 2021, news release on his official website, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced that the first-year allotment of water and sewer funding for the CNMI from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is \$20,794,000.

"The IJA will provide this funding, particularly aimed at historically underserved communities, annually for five years, through 2026," Sablan wrote.

This funding is in addition to Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act funding that CUC receives from the U.S. Congress yearly.

Sablan further disclosed in his release that 24-hour water for "virtually all Marianas households" was achieved through funding formula changes he advocated for in 2010.

Next up for the CNMI? Water that is not only "potable" but also "palatable," wrote Sablan. "That means not only free of bacteria and other harmful substances, but clear and good tasting right out of the tap. Now we have the money to reach this goal," he added. *(Joshua Santos)*

currents are present in north facing reefs of the Marianas until noon today.

These will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. *(PR)*

Two more COVID-19 cases identified on Rota

Two more individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 on Rota, bringing the island's case total to six.

According to a Jan. 12 news release, the Rota Health Center reported that the two new cases were identified through community-based testing at RHC. The cases have since been isolated and are being actively monitored, said RHC.

The health center reported that 22 close contacts of the new cases were identified and tested. All 22 tested negative for COVID-19. RHC conducted 49 PCR tests on Jan. 12.

Similar to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in its

own COVID-19 updates, RHC encourages the community to get vaccinated against COVID-19 or get a booster shot "to help prevent illness, hospitalization, and death." Registering can be done through www.vaccinatecnmi.com.

If you are a Rota resident experiencing COVID-19 symptoms which include: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, and new loss of taste or smell, RHC asks you to call the RHC at 670-532-9461.

Community-based testing on Rota

To expand COVID-19 testing

efforts on Rota, the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services launched a drive-through community-based testing on the island last Thursday.

DFEMS CBT on Rota continues Friday at the Round House parking lot in Songsong Village. Rota residents who are going to get tested are asked to have a valid photo identification card with them. DFEMS asks Rota residents to wait on updates for additional CBT dates and times.

In a text to *Saipan Tribune* last Thursday, Rota Mayor's Office press secretary Ivan Mereb said that DFEMS CBT on Rota was a first, and also said that

DFEMS expanded its testing operations on the island as there have recently been a large influx in residents wanting to get tested for COVID-19.

"In the past, testing would have come from [the] Rota Health Center, but because of the large influx of residents wanting to get tested, CNMI DFEMS has increased and expanded its testing operation on Rota," said Mereb.

Mereb added that DFEMS is taking the lead on testing with RHC staff present on-site to provide guidance.

To learn more information about CBT on Rota, the RMO asks you to call 670-532-9451 or 670-284-0085. *(Joshua Santos)*

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Public Notice

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds
01/06/2022

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

This is to give notice that Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) as determined that the following proposed Beach Road Improvement Phase III & IV project under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program grant number B-19-DV-69-0001 and B-19-DV-69-002 is located in the 100-year floodplain. NMHC will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project(s) is located on Route 33, Beach Road, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The public may view the full description of the project and provide comments by visiting the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the public notice/announcement tab and selecting the Environmental Review Records or you may visit the NMHC CDBG-DR website at <https://www.cnmicdbgdrr.com>.

Written comments must be received by NMHC on or before January 24, 2022. A minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication. Written comments may also be submitted through the following methods: email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp; or facsimile to 1-670-234-9021; or hand deliver to the NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, Attention CDBG-DR Project Division.

/s/
Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-005

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR LOWER BASE SEWER REPLACEMENT – PHASE II

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting a fee proposal from a professional archaeologist who meets the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct archaeological monitoring during construction of all areas identified by the CNMI HPO for the construction of a new sewer line on Rte. 314 – Lower Base Drive and Rte. 30 – Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conduct background research to document the environmental and land-use histories of the project site.
2. Prepare a monitoring plan to the specifications of the Scope of Work and the guidelines for research designs.
3. Implement the monitoring plan activities following the approved plan.
4. Prepare an End of Fieldwork Letter that provides a general description of the project, work completed, burials recovered, sites and features identified.
5. Prepare a draft report summarizing the monitoring and data recovery activities & within six months of completing the fieldwork.
6. Prepare and submit, based on review comments, two final hard copies and one CD-ROM copy of the archaeological report to the HPO.
7. Prepare and submit revised CNMI Site Forms for previously recorded sites, as needed, and new site forms for all newly documented sites.
8. Submit all artifacts collected and pay all fees according to the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture (CMHC) to the specifications of the current draft curation standards.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked “CUC-RFP-22-005: Archaeological Services for Lower Base Sewer Replacement – Phase II” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 27, 2022, at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copies to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive DirectorINVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-013

Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of the installation of sewer gravity mains, manholes, sewer laterals and connections to the new sewer system, connection to the existing sewer on Isa Drive, concrete encasement of new sewer mains, utility crossings, restoration of site pavement, temporary soil erosion control, temporary traffic control, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer and water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-22-013, Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 18, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NMC updates nursing admission test

Northern Marianas College's nursing department will be implementing a change to the scoring tiers of their admission test for the fall 2022 semester.

The nursing program's admission test will now have one standard scoring system and phase out the two-tier scoring system that was used for two academic years (fall 2020 admission cohort and fall 2021 admission cohort).

In the new scoring system, the applicant must pass the admission test with a 60% or higher in all five test content areas: mathematics, reading, writing, science, and critical thinking.

Currently, the nursing department reviews the admission test scores based on a two-tier scoring system. Applicants must either pass in the first tier (60% or above in all

five test content areas) or the second tier (60% or above in four test content areas and 50-59% in one test content area).

The nursing department piloted for the first time the nursing program admission test using Kaplan Nursing's admission test, or “KapTest,” for admission into the fall 2019 semester. This pilot project was a big change toward making pre-nursing students aware of the college's upcoming full implementation of an admission test and the need to prepare themselves in taking the test. For the fall 2020 admission process, the nursing department fully implemented an admission test as an additional requirement along with other existing requirements to apply for admission into the program. This change will apply to

NMC pre-nursing students who are on track to finishing their prerequisites in spring/summer 2022 or other students who have met the prerequisite requirements and now are ready to apply for admission for fall 2022 nursing cohort. Students are encouraged to contact their nursing advisor for an update on their progress towards applying for admission into the nursing program for fall 2022.

The application for the fall 2022 admission into the nursing program will be available in April 2022 at www.marianas.edu/nursing.

For more information, contact department chair Rosa T. Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or Andrew Mendiola, administrative assistant, at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu. **(PR)**

CUC ADVISORIES

Water service interruption in Wireless Ridge, Talofoto, Capital Hill, Papago, portions of Kagman

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along Isa Drive from Capital Hill, Papago to the Kagman Mobil gas station, Wireless Ridge, and Talofoto today, Jan. 17, 2022, from 8:30am to 3:30pm, to allow CUC water

operators to repair a main service lateral leak on Kwajaleiin Avenue in Capitol Hill. Customers should expect restoration of water service soon after the repairs 3:30pm. **(PR)**

Water service interruption in Airport Road Dandan, Lower Dandan, As Lito, portions of As Perdido, Koblerville, Tottotville

There will be a scheduled water

service interruption for customers in the areas of Airport Road Dandan, Lower Dandan, As Lito, portions of As Perdido, Koblerville and Tottotville on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, to allow CUC water operators to repair a 6-inch transmission waterline break near the National Car Rental in Airport Road Dandan. Customers should expect restoration of water service soon after the repairs at 4:30pm. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-015

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy equipment for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (US DOI), Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-22-015, Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 3, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Local bill to earmark \$400K repayment by Luta Mermaid is vetoed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has vetoed a Senate local bill that seeks to earmark the \$400,000 repayment by Luta Mermaid LLC and local poker fees in order to provide funds for the Rota Interisland Medical Referral patients, medical subsistence program, and Rota Municipal Scholarship.

Torres informed Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Rota Legislative Delegation co-chairpersons Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Donald M.

US Treasury issues final rule on use of \$492M relief fund

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Treasury Department has issued its 437-page final rule on the use of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds that the U.S. Congress included in the American Rescue Plan Act, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) over the weekend.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan said the Marianas state and local-level governments are receiving \$492 million.

He said the Commonwealth government gets \$481,876,521, the single largest federal grant ever to go to the Marianas. He said half of this money from Congress was from an equal division among the insular areas and half was allocated based on population.

Sablan said another \$10.4 million of Fiscal Recovery Funds was provided to the municipalities of Rota (\$449,840), Tinian (\$609,131), and Saipan (\$9,366,170).

He said Congress laid out four specific purposes for the money in the American Rescue Plan Act:

- To pay for government services cut back because of lost revenues during the pandemic.

- To assist households, small businesses, and non-profit organizations, or the tourism industry.

- To provide premium pay to essential workers dealing with the health emergency.

- To invest in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure projects.

» OAG: Luta Mermaid LLC agrees to repay \$400K to settle suit in 2019, but no payment has been made until now

Manglona (Ind-Rota) last Dec. 29 about his decision to veto Senate Local Bill 22-4.

The governor said that, according to the Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General, although the defendants in the Luta Mermaid litigation have agreed to repay the settlement amount of \$400,000, no payment has been made to the Commonwealth yet.

He said the OAG has also informed him that an order to show cause motion will be filed shortly to enforce the set-

tlement terms in the lawsuit.

"Because this funding is not readily available and there is no additional information offered by the delegation with regard to when such payments will be made, I find the earmarking of these funds to be irresponsible at this time," Torres said.

The CNMI government sued in 2017 the then-owners of cargo ship M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to return the \$400,000 in public funds that were loaned to them for the vessel's operations.

Torres strongly encouraged the delegation to earmark and appropriate these funds for the Rota Interisland Medical Referral patients, medical subsistence program, and the Rota Municipal scholarship as soon as they become available.

Senate Local Bill 22-04, authored by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), seeks to reserve the \$400,000 payment by Luta Mermaid LLC in a special account for the Rota Legislative Delegation to appropriate to provide funding for the Rota Interisland Medical Referral and Rota Medical Subsistence program.



Torres

Manglona stated in the bill that the Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3 authorized the Finance secretary to make an advance payment of not more than \$400,000 to Luta Mermaid LLC to finance fuel, lubrication, and the maiden voyage costs from Louisiana to Rota.

The senator said the resolution also provides that Luta Mermaid LLC agrees to a repayment plan of the \$400,000 within one year.

He said that in the July 23, 2019, settlement agreement between the CNMI and Luta Mermaid LLC, a repayment plan for the \$400,000 was agreed upon by all parties.

The government, through the OAG, had sued Luta Mermaid LLC and its shareholders for unjust enrichment, conversion, and other claims. In 2019, the OAG announced that it reached a settlement with Luta Mermaid LLC, which includes the entry of judgment for the full \$400,000 jointly against the individual principals of M/V *Luta*.



File photo show the M/V *Luta* docked at a harbor on Rota.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No. 1:20-CV-00034 Court ordered public sale of the leasehold interest for Lot 019 D 61 and Lot 019 D 83 located on Navy Hill, Saipan.

Sale will be held at the property site **February 15, 2022 at 11:00a.m.** The property has an incomplete 5 story apartment building improvement with 31 apartments overlooking the ocean. Bidders must register by contacting saipanhomes@gmail.com. Registered bidders will be notified of a viewing date and time and make available a copy of existing lease.

Terms of the sale can be seen at www.saipanservices.com or call the limited receiver at 670-287-4766 for additional information.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 2, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel H. Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer - via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Mrs. Marcela Tenorio Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Assistant - via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

ADDENDUM NO. 1
DATED: JANUARY 10, 2022

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all prospective proposers of the following amendments to CUC-IFB-22-009:

The **Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit** has been rescheduled from 10:00am on January 13, 2022 to **10:00am on January 19, 2022**.

The **deadline for submission of questions or requests for clarification** has been extended from 10:00am on January 17, 2022 to **10:00am on January 21, 2022**.

Bid Submittal Deadline:

The deadline for submission of bids has been extended from 10:00am on February 2, 2022 to **10:00am on February 9, 2022**.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 9, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All other terms and conditions in the Scope of Work, shall remain unchanged and in full force.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 11Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

1 in 3 Americans now 'alarmed' by climate change. Why aren't our leaders?

New results from a long-running public opinion survey show that about 1 in 3 Americans is now "alarmed" by global warming. Is it any wonder, given the horrific onslaught of fires, floods, heat waves and other climate disasters we've experienced in the last year alone?

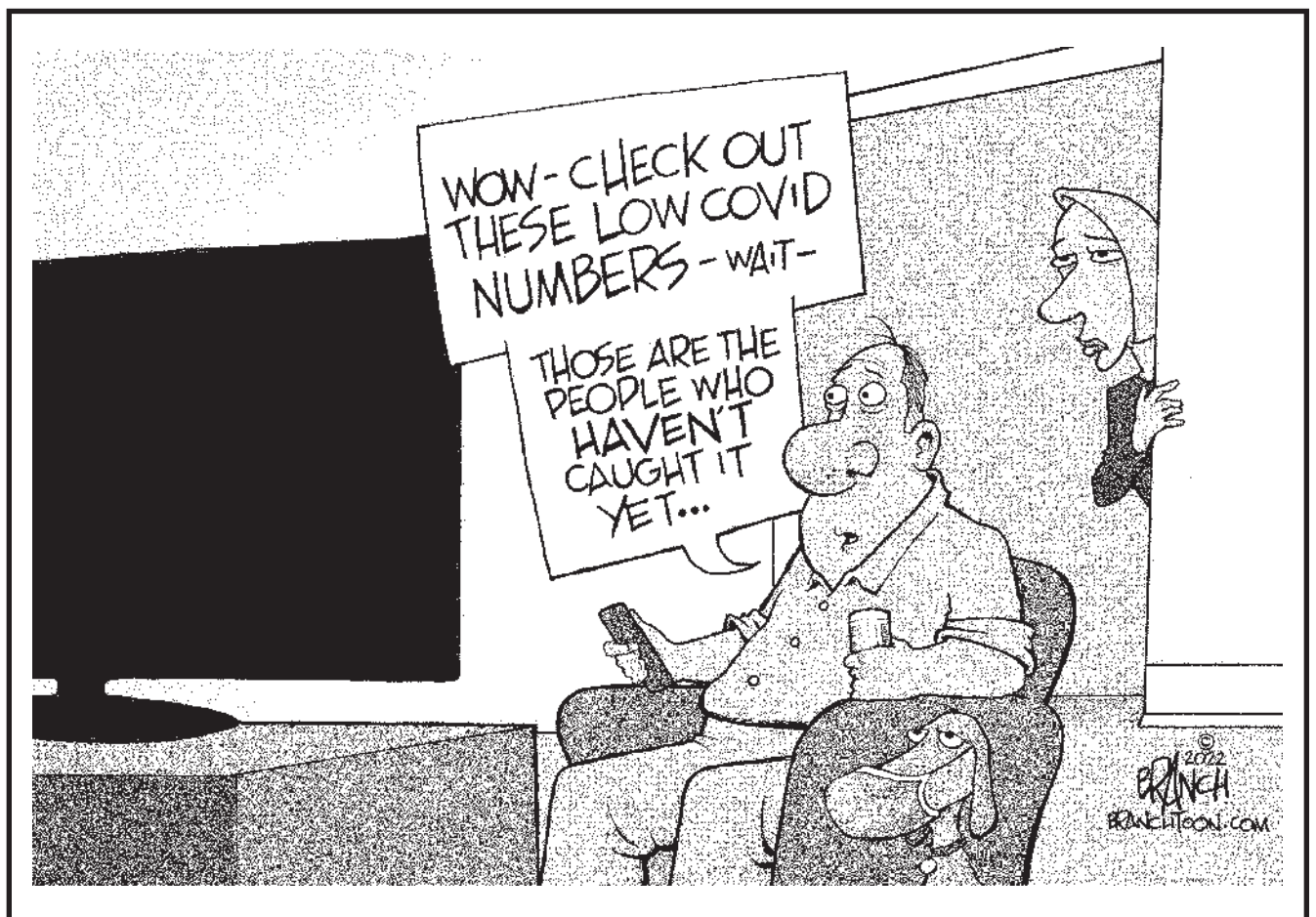
The share of the U.S. adult population alarmed by global warming nearly doubled over the last five years from 18% to an all-time high of 33%, with about half of that increase occurring between December 2020 and September 2021, researchers with Yale University and George Mason University reported Wednesday as part of a twice-a-year nationwide survey. About 59% of Americans are either "alarmed" or "concerned" about climate change and overall are becoming more engaged and supportive of policies to reduce planet-warming pollution.

The shift in public opinion is surely being driven by experience. A recent Washington Post analysis found that more than 40% of Americans live in a county that was hit by climate-related disasters in 2021—extremes that will get worse as the greenhouse gas-fueled rise in temperatures continues.

But what should alarm us even more is how out of step our government remains with Americans' fast-evolving views on climate change, and how little state and federal leaders have done in the face of an escalating emergency. Instead of acting decisively to slash emissions, switch to renewable energy and phase out fossil fuel production, our government is still stuck in the mud, even as U.S. greenhouse gas emissions roar back after a pandemic-induced lull.

President Joe Biden's "Build Back Better" bill includes \$555 billion for renewable energy and clean transportation and would be the nation's biggest step ever to fight climate change, but it remains stalled in Congress. California, despite its reputation as an environmental champion, is not on track to meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals, targets that are themselves inadequate and now lag behind other states and countries. The state Legislature, meanwhile, has failed to advance ambitious and necessary climate legislation, including measures to set more stringent emissions reduction goals and begin phasing out oil drilling, a transition that will both help the planet and protect communities of color that are hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution and suffer outside health damage.

Anthony Leiserowitz, who directs the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication that has been conducting the climate opinion survey for the last 14 years, said the "shockingly big jump" in respondents expressing alarm about global warming in recent months mirrors similarly sharp increases in the proportion of Americans who believe climate change is affecting weather, harming people and that they are personally experiencing the effects. That shift has coincided with a year of brutal climate disasters and media coverage that is

See **AMERICANS** on Next Page

POINT: The content of one's character

By **BARBARA R. ARNWINE** and **DARYL D. JONES**
INSIDESOURCES.COM

This weekend we pause to honor the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to interpret his words calling upon America to see the content of the character before judging anyone's person.

On Feb. 23, 2020, a 25-year-old African-American man lay dead in the street of a predominantly white neighborhood near Brunswick, Georgia, killed by three white vigilantes. His crime: jogging in the streets of a white neighborhood and looking into a house under construction to see concepts of his dream to become an architect.

In 1955, a 14-year-old African-American boy comes to Money, Mississippi, for summer vacation with his extended family and is killed with a gin fan strung around his neck, wrapped in barbed wire, shot in the head and his body dumped in the Tallahatchie River. His crime: allegedly offending a white woman.

The disregard of the killers of the content of the character of Emmett Till is what drove Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to wonder aloud about his children being judged not by the color of their skin but by the substance of the character of their person. The content of Ahmaud Arbery's character was also not known by the three white male vigilantes in Brunswick, Georgia, before they hunted him down in their neighborhood, cornered him "like a rat" and blew his chest wide open so that daylight could be seen through his body.

America has made progress since the killing of Till and the acquittal of suspects in his case by an all-white jury, without consideration of his character, to the unprecedented conviction of the three white vigilantes who killed Arbery by a jury of 11 white citizens and one Black citizen in southeast Georgia. In evaluating the meaning of King's words regarding his four children being judged not by their skin color but by the content of their character, it is important to first understand that one needs to see beyond the race of the Emmett Tills of America, beyond the race of the Ahmaud Arberys of America, before judging them and their alleged acts.

At the most basic of foundations, it is absurd to say that Till

and Arbery were not judged by the color of their skin before being killed. They were killed because of the lack of character in the white vigilantes, and the killers' preconceived prejudices prevented them from considering Till or Arbery as worthy of positive character. Neither the content of Till's character nor the content of Arbery's character was considered before their executions.

The question lingers, however, about what King meant by not being judged by the color of one's skin but the content of one's character. We believe that the ugly thread of invidious prejudice and vicious racism runs so deeply in America that King was speaking of the prejudgment made against the Tills of his lifetime, mirroring the prejudice against today's Arberys, before any consideration could be given regarding their character and who they were as citizens.

It is a diversionary tactic to become entangled in the maze of the conservative argument that race should not be considered in social, political and business settings. To fully embrace the conservative philosophy of not deploying reparative strategies is to ignore the enduring physical and psychological chains of slavery; to ignore the laws permitting, nay requiring, discrimination and devaluation of Black people; to ignore banking laws that permitted red-lining to deny equal housing opportunities to Black people;

**Martin Luther King Jr.:
'I have a dream that my
four little children will
one day live in a nation
where they will not be
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their character.'**

to ignore the continued state legislative efforts to disenfranchise Black, brown and other vulnerable voters; and to ignore denying qualified Black farmers federal funding but providing abundant federal government backed financial funding to white farmers (a practice that continues to this day) and then declaring, "Why can't you keep up? There's something amiss with your character."

Unquestionably, as demonstrated by the vigilante lynching of Till in 1955 to the vigilante shooting of Arbery in 2020, too often the color of one's skin continues to dominate and dislodge consideration of the content of one's character in our nation's financial, political and social discrimination.

Barbara R. Arnwine is president and founder of Transformative Justice Coalition and Daryl D. Jones is board chair and executive vice president of the coalition. They wrote this for Inside-Sources.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

COUNTERPOINT: Dr. King's false heirs

By **RICHARD HOLT**
INSIDESOURCES.COM

Imagine two children on a playground.

These kids play. They laugh. They are helping each other on the slides and sharing a sandwich for lunch.

At 4 years old, these children—one Black and one white—see each other as they see themselves. They see not a color or racism or social stigma. They see another kid who will help them throw their leftover bread to the ducks.

What happens to these two children later in life that creates a racial barrier between them? Adults, and their lies.

Race is a purely sociological construct, one that is taught. Race has been used as an instrument across cultures and times to create privileged groups and outside groups. Privileged groups have then used it to control, manipulate and maintain power over other groups.

Fortunately, most Americans have evolved beyond such artificial structures. Race in America was a historical reality, but it is not an indicator of our future.

Most Americans have moved beyond labels of class and

status such as white or Black, rich or poor, Christian or non-Christian. These old, divisive tactics simply aren't working, and this infuriates the political left because it is dependent upon them for its survival.

When the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. cast the glorious vision that man should be judged by "the content of his character," he foresaw a natural end to these divisive artificial labels. King also recognized that Americans had the strength to excise these things out of the social programming of our kids, and that the progress of the human race would naturally bring everyone to the table.

But there are those who benefit from the chaos and would do anything to avoid such an end. Racial animosity has become an industry for some. It is an institution with profiteers at the top of it. Have you seen the glorious

houses of the Black Lives Matter leaders?

Race was business when the Ku Klux Klan formed to suppress the Black vote in the 1890s. It was a business during slavery. The difference today is who runs this business. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton have earned millions of dollars extorting companies with their campaigns of racial intimidation.

tion. Have they solved any problems, or have they just turned a profit?

The political left and its Marxist allies are not only raking in millions of dollars from the modern race industry but they are using these resources to further divide our society and to perpetuate the conditions that allow them to continue to profit.

Poor whites and poor Blacks alike suffer from substandard schools, lower prospects and depressing statistics. Does the color of their skin matter? Of course not. But many liberal politicians ignore the white ones, believing that they're inherently racist and probably deserve it. Those leaders instead cater to Black masses who like the privilege assigned to victimhood. What a magnificent way to profit!

Therefore, those preschoolers on the playground must become accustomed to a new dynamic. The white one must apologize for being racist, and the Black one must understand that he's a victim who needs a white liberal program to save him. They can no longer feed the ducks together because the Black child needs to sit in a "safe space" with other Black children so he's not made to feel uncomfortable by someone who looks a little different.

And so the historic cycle of class and race and profit—so close to extinction—is being perpetuated for another generation.

Shame on the racial profiteers who sully King's legacy, his holiday and his dream by claiming to be his heirs.

Richard Holt is a member of the Project 21 black leadership network. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Stewardship: A special MLK Day message**

Given that COVID-19 is preventing any gatherings, I am humbly and respectfully asking readers when driving today to please drive with your headlights on bright to honor and commemorate the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his contributions to civil and human rights in America and the world. You can even give a blink or flash with your headlights to others with their lights on in solidarity—make it a fun driving experience. My breed of people who marched with Dr. King are becoming extinct and, at 71 years old, I'm still fighting to keep hope and the dream alive and I sincerely appreciate your help in celebrating MLK Day today, Jan. 17, 2022.

I can remember Jesse Jackson yelling and hammering it into us in the civil rights movement meetings in Memphis to "keep hope alive—keep the dream alive" and that's why I'm writing this today 54 years later in hopes of honoring Dr. King and to remind those who care to do their part to keep hope and Dr. King's dream alive whenever the opportunity presents itself. The Bible tells us that God gave all mankind, not just some but all, dominion over the Earth with the expectations that we as humans would be good stewards of the planet. Stewards are merely caretakers whose role is only for the short time of their life in the perpetual evolution of our planet and species. Yes, we are on a continuing evolutionary path of change that is driven by the human desire "to be the best that we can be" which has allowed mankind to advance significantly, especially in the realm of technology, but this desire to be the best has even caused racism, conflicts and wars. We must be mindful as stewards of this Earth and Commonwealth to avoid the pitfalls of poor stewardship in the continued evolution of our nation and islands. I'm sure most will agree about knowing the prophetic phrase that "nothing

remains the same" as it reflects the fact that our planet and we as a people are continuing to evolve and change and it's up to the stewards to make that a progressive change for improvements, unlike the regression of economy and quality of life we are seeing and experiencing today.

The results of our poor stewardship when it comes to our environmental footprint on the planet is now starting to show with climate change, which we as humans must take far more seriously before it's too late because most of our adverse effects on our environment can't be undone. As for the evolution of our small society in the CNMI, the only question is, will our evolution be a progressive movement of good stewardship to improve our government, economy and quality of life, or will our evolution continue to be driven by poor stewardship and full of pitfalls of government austerities and corruption, economic failures on all the populated islands with a continued decline in the quality of life? The decision as to which path our evolution will take is entirely in the hands of the stewards of the CNMI, not the politicians and not even the church but the people. So one must ask: Am I being a good or bad steward of the CNMI?

What makes you a good steward does not require a lot of you, which is mainly your vote but it does require a lot in you to be honest, forthright, just, and fair in your responsibilities to your family and fellow citizens, not loyalty to one person. I clearly remember Dr. King challenging me and other youth in the SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, with the late Rep. John Lewis as its president) to give it our all and to fully participate in the civil rights movement with the question of: "If not you then who and if not now, then when?" That same question applies to the stewardship of the CNMI as many locals continue to leave for the mainland, es-

pecially when their life goals can't be attained in the CNMI.

The people and especially the leaders of our Commonwealth need to be mindful that not only do we need physical infrastructure for a good quality of life, we also need "humanity infrastructure" that is diverse, with the ability to provide more avenues of opportunities for the desired life goals of our youth without the need for leaving the CNMI. It's called progress! But you can't progress and grow big by thinking small. I want to share some advice my mother gave me when I asked her what should I do out here about the absence of a Baptist church. She said, "Ambrose, attend any church that worships Jesus Christ and keep in mind that all the big fish in the ocean eat all the little fish, so you need to learn how to grow big." The Romans might also remind us that "fortune favors the brave" who will work and pursue prosperity, not those hoping and waiting on some foreign investor to come in and make them rich!

The CNMI people and leaders must become better stewards if the CNMI is to become a better place. We as a Commonwealth must learn to grow big if we expect and want big results and outcomes for a better quality of life. But more importantly, the core of the problems facing the CNMI has been the poor and misleading politricks stewardship of the Republican leadership and I'm sure Dr. King might say: "If the CNMI is to truly be a first-class destination of America, then there can't be any second-class American citizens in the CNMI." If we the people can become better and fair stewards of the CNMI, the fortunes we have desired will surely follow. Thanks for supporting MLK Day and have a happy and safe MLK Day!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

AMERICANS

From Page 8

increasingly connecting the dots between extreme weather and the warming climate.

Leiserowitz sees the emergence of "a fundamental shift in

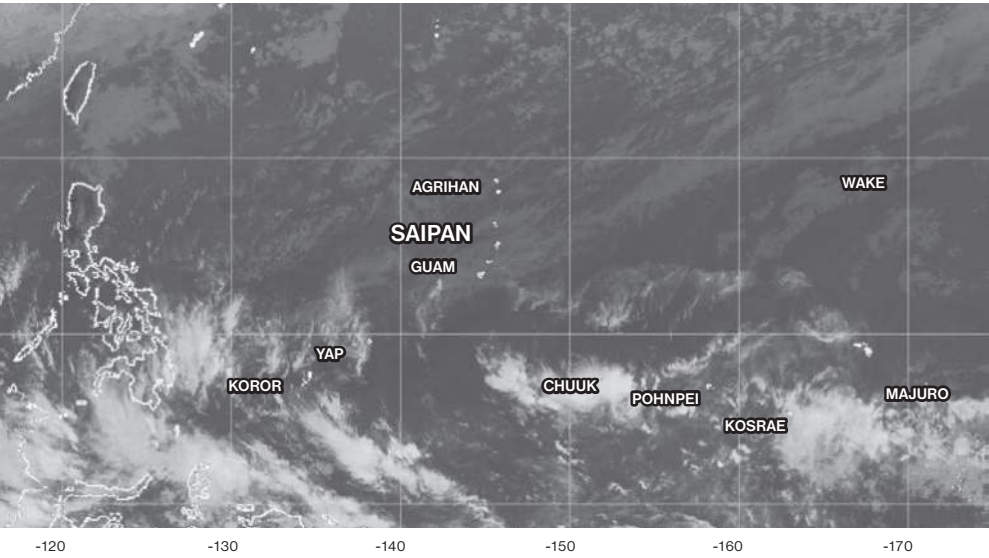
society" that could quickly spill over into political action, as with same-sex marriage and other fast-shifting issues before it. "You're beginning to see the coalescing of a powerful citizens' movement demanding that leaders act, both business leaders and government leaders."

Let's hope so. We are running out of time to avert catastrophic warming and we can't allow dawdling and weak-kneed politi-

cians to jeopardize our future with inaction and half-measures that are increasingly at odds with public opinion and reality. Leaders must stop treating the destruction of the planet as one pet issue among many. It is the defining threat of our time, and they should be jolted into action.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	
76°	85°	76°	85°	86°	78°	76°	85°	86°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:22 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line continues to affect the islands of the Marianas, particularly Guam and Rota. The shear line extends far to the east-northeast, at least to Midway Atoll just east of the date line. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell. The numerical wave guidance shows an additional 4 to 5 foot north swell (which the ECMWF wave guidance suggests could be bigger), which could raise the total combined seas in the open ocean to between 7 and 9 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:47 AM	18:48 PM
Tuesday	05:47 AM	18:48 PM
Wednesday	05:47 AM	18:49 PM
Thursday	05:47 AM	18:49 PM
Frdday	05:47 AM	18:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	04:25 PM	17:08 PM
Tuesday	-	05:10 PM	18:05 PM
Wednesday	-	05:56 PM	19:02 PM
Thursday	-	06:45 AM	19:59 PM
Frdday	-	07:35 PM	20:54 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	26 / 18 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	5 / -9 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	65 / 61 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	26 / 19 °F	
London	Sunny	8 / -1 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	19 / 12 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	31 / 72 °F	
Melbourne	AM Clouds/PM Sun	22 / 16 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	22 / 12 °F	
New York	AM Showers/Wind	8 / -3 °F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	9 / 3 °F	
Paris	Cloudy	7 / 1 °F	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	8 / -5 °F	
Rome	Sunny	14 / 2 °F	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	10 / -3 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	14 / 8 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	1 / 12 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	11 / 1 °F	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	5 / -2 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
01:26 AM	Low Tide	-0.46	
08:46 AM	High Tide	1.59	
1:56 PM	Low Tide	1.08	
6:31 PM	High Tide	1.59	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6	7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6	TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Netflix upping US, Canada prices with competition growing

NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix is raising prices for its video streaming customers in the U.S. and Canada, less than a year and a half since its last price increase, as competition from other streaming services increases.

The Los Gatos, California, company said Friday that prices are going up by \$1 to \$2, depending on the plan. The

“standard” plan that most people take is increasing by \$1.50, to \$15.50. The Canadian version is going up by the same amount in local currency, to \$16.50 Canadian dollars.

Price increases are becoming more of a regular feature at Netflix, which is facing saturation in the U.S. market. Of Netflix’s 213.5 million subscribers, some 74 million are

in the U.S. and Canada. It got an influx of global subscribers early in the pandemic, but is investing in video games as it looks beyond movies and TV for growth.

In the U.S., Netflix’s most expensive plan is increasing by \$2, to \$20; its basic plan is

up \$1, to \$10. The plans vary based on variables like the number of screens users can watch Netflix on at the same time and the number of phones or tablets that can have downloads. The company still mails out DVDs in a service that requires a separate plan.

The price increase is effective as of Friday. Netflix will tell customers by email and inside the Netflix app before the new price is applied to them.

Customers in New York, Alabama and Louisiana also got hit with a new local sales tax bill, which Netflix says was because of the addition of video games to the service.

Raising prices carries the risk that people will cancel.

Netflix remains the dominant U.S. streaming service, but others, such as HBO Max and Disney+, have increased in popularity.

Netflix shares gained in late trading after news of the price increase came out. The stock closed up \$6.49, or 1.3%, to \$525.69. The company reports its fourth-quarter financial results Thursday.



Businesses react to ruling against Biden vaccine mandate

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

For companies that were waiting to hear from the U.S. Supreme Court before deciding whether to require vaccinations or regular coronavirus testing for workers, the next move is up to them.

Many large corporations were silent on Thursday’s ruling by the high court



Biden

to block a requirement that workers at businesses with at least 100 employees be fully vaccinated or else test regularly for COVID-19 and wear a mask on the job.

Target’s response was typical: The big retailer said it wanted to review the decision and “how it will impact our team and business.”

The Biden administration argues that nothing in federal law prevents private businesses from imposing their own vaccine requirements. However, companies could run into state bans on vaccine mandates in Republican-controlled states. And relatively

few businesses enacted their own rules ahead of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirement, raising doubt that there will be rush for them now.

In legal terms, the Supreme Court’s conservative majority said the OSHA lacked authority to impose such a mandate on big companies. The court, however, let stand a vaccination requirement for most health-care workers.

The National Retail Federation, the nation’s largest retail trade organization and one of the groups that challenged the OSHA action, called the court’s decision “a significant victory for employers.” It complained that OSHA acted without first allowing public comments, although administration officials met with many business and labor groups before issuing the rule.

Chris Spear, the president of the American Trucking Associations, another of the groups that fought the OSHA rule, said it “would interfere with individuals’ private health care decisions.”

Karen Harned, an official with the National Federation of Independent Business, said that as small businesses try to recover from nearly two years of pandemic, “the last thing they need is a mandate that would cause more business challenges.”

But mandate supporters called it a matter of safety for employees and customers.

Dan Simons, co-owner of the Founding Farmers chain of restaurants in the Washington area, said vaccine mandates are “common sense.” He requires his 1,000 employees to be fully vaccinated; those who request an exemption must wear a mask and submit weekly COVID test results.

“If your priority is the economy, or your own health, or the health of others, you would agree with my approach,” Simons said.

Administration officials believe that even though the OSHA rule has been blocked, it drove millions of people to get vaccinated. Companies that used mandates to achieve relatively high vaccination rates may decide that they have accomplished enough.

Ford Motor Co. said it was

“encouraged by the 88% of U.S. salaried employees who are already vaccinated.” The car maker said it would review the court decision to see if it needs to change a requirement that most U.S. salaried workers get the shots.

Labor advocates were dis-

mayed by the ruling.

“This decision will have no impact on most professional and white collar workers, but it will endanger millions of frontline workers who risk their lives daily and who are least able to protect themselves,” said David Michaels, who led OSHA during the Obama administration and now teaches at the George

Washington University’s School of Public Health.

For their part, labor unions had been divided all along about Biden’s attempt to create a vaccine mandate, with many nurses and teachers groups in favor, but many police and fire unions opposed. Some unions wanted the right to bargain over the issue with companies.

A digital divide haunts schools adapting to virus hurdles



Abigail Schneider, 8, center, completes a level of her learning game with her mother April in her bedroom, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. “I’m determined to push and push to get them the things that help them,” said April Schneider. “I have to go above and beyond to make sure whatever requirements they need they get.”

AP PHOTO/JOHN MINCHILLO

By **ANNIE MA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When April Schneider’s children returned to in-person classrooms this year, she thought they were leaving behind the struggles from more than a year of remote learning. No more problems with borrowed tablets. No more days of missed lessons because her kids couldn’t connect to their virtual schooling.

But coronavirus cases in her children’s New York City classrooms, and the subsequent quarantines, sent her kids back to learning from home. Without personal devices for each child, Schneider said they were largely left to do nothing while stuck at home.

“So there you go again, with no computer, and you’re back to square one as if COVID just begun all over again in a smaller form,” Schneider said.

As more families pivot back to remote learning amid quarantines and school closures, reliable, consistent access to devices and home internet remains elusive for many stu-

dents who need them to keep up with their schoolwork. Home internet access for students has improved since the onset of the pandemic with help from philanthropy, federal relief funding and other efforts—but obstacles linger, including a lack of devices, slow speeds and financial hurdles.

Concerns around the digital divide have shifted toward families that are “underconnected” and able to access the internet only sporadically, said Vikki Katz, a communication professor at Rutgers University.

“It’s about whether or not you can withstand the disruptions of these quick pivots in ways that don’t derail your learning,” she said.

In two studies, one conducted in 2015 and another in 2021, Katz and other researchers surveyed low-income families with young children. While rates of home internet access and computer ownership are up significantly, the proportion of lower-income families whose internet access is un-

reliable or insufficient remained roughly the same.

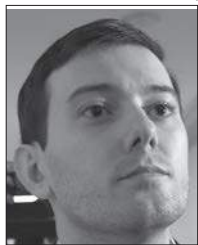
A year into the pandemic, more than half the families Katz surveyed reported that their children’s ability to tune into online classes had been disrupted in some way.

Racial and income divides persist in home internet access, according to data from the Pew Research Center. One survey conducted in April of 2020 found that during the initial school closures, 59% of lower-income families faced digital barriers, such as having to log on from a smartphone, not having a device or having to use a public network because their home network was not reliable enough.

About 34% of households making less than \$30,000 reported having trouble paying for their home internet bill, as did 25% of those making between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Compared to white households, Black and Latino families were less likely to have access to broadband and a computer at home.

Shkreli ordered to return \$64M, is barred from drug industry

NEW YORK (AP)—Martin Shkreli must return \$64.6 million in profits he and his former company reaped from jacking up the price and monopolizing the market for a lifesaving drug, a federal judge ruled Friday while also barring the provocative, imprisoned ex-CEO from the pharmaceutical industry for the rest of his life.



Shkreli

U.S. District Judge Denise Cote’s ruling came several weeks after a seven-day bench trial in December that featured recordings of conversations that Cote said showed Shkreli continuing to exert control over the company, Viera Pharmaceuticals LLC, from behind bars and discussing ways to

thwart generic versions of its lucrative drug, Daraprim.

“Shkreli was no side player in, or a ‘remote, unrelated’ beneficiary of Viera’s scheme,” Cote wrote in a 135-page opinion. “He was the mastermind of its illegal conduct and the person principally responsible for it throughout the years.”

The Federal Trade Commission and seven states brought the case in 2020 against the man known in the media as “Pharma Bro,” about two years after he was sentenced to prison in an unrelated securities fraud scheme.

“‘Envy, greed, lust, and hate,’ don’t just ‘separate,’ but they obviously motivated Mr. Shkreli and his partner to il-

legally jack up the price of a life-saving drug as Americans’ lives hung in the balance,” New York Attorney General Letitia James said, peppering the written statement with references to the Wu-Tang Clan, whose one-of-a-kind album Shkreli had to fork over to satisfy court debt.

“But Americans can rest easy because Martin Shkreli is a pharma bro no more.”

Messages seeking comment were left with Shkreli’s lawyers.

Shkreli was CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals—later Viera—when it raised the price of Daraprim from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill after obtaining exclusive rights to the decades-old drug in 2015. It treats a rare parasitic disease that strikes pregnant women, cancer patients and AIDS patients.

Nation

Hostages safe after Texas synagogue standoff; captor dead

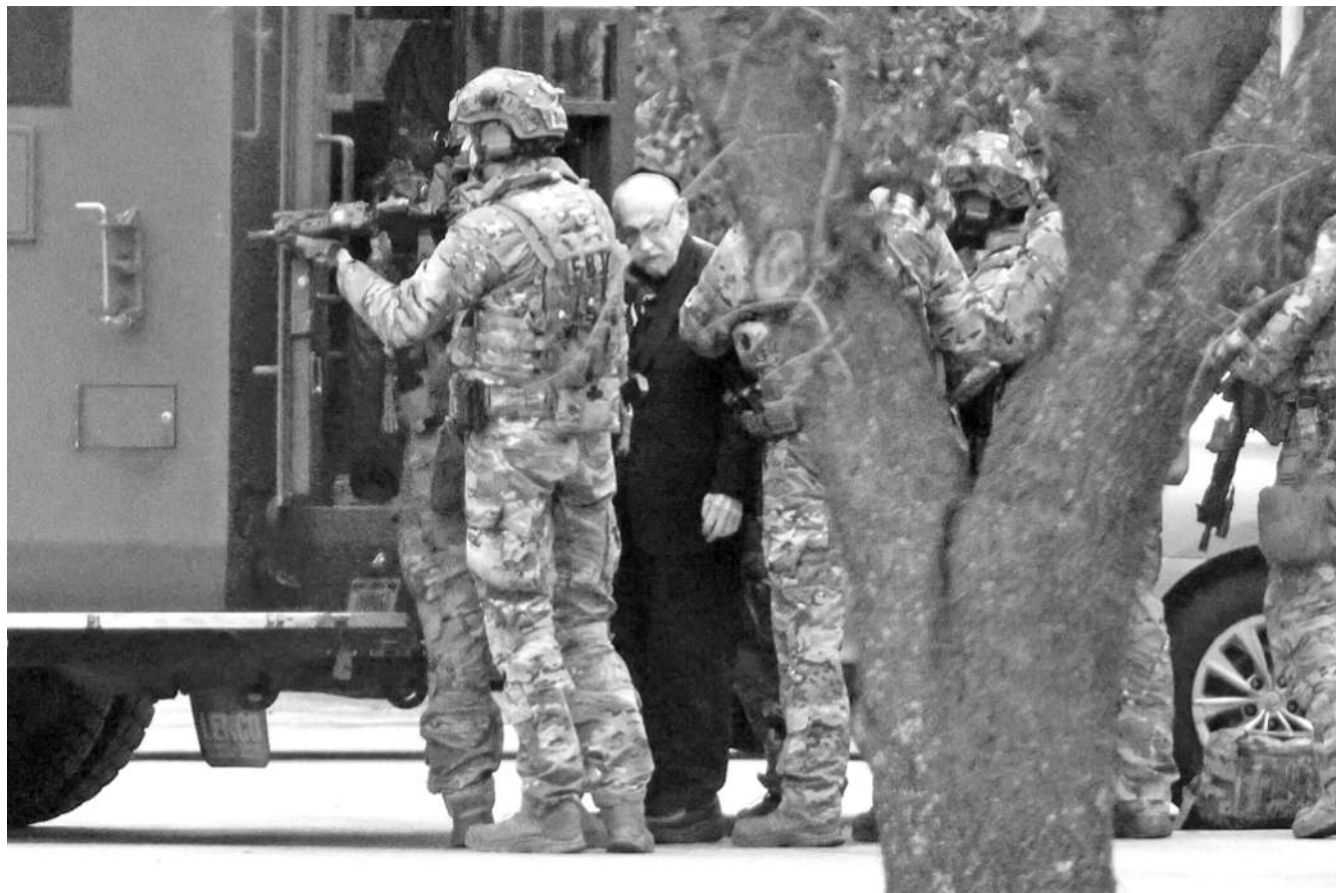
COLLEYVILLE, Texas (AP)—A man held hostages for more than 10 hours Saturday at a Texas synagogue where he could be heard ranting in a livestream and demanding the release of a Pakistani neuroscientist who was convicted of trying to kill U.S. Army officers in Afghanistan.

One of the four hostages held at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville was released during the standoff; three others were rescued when authorities entered the building about 9 p.m., authorities said. The hostage taker was killed and FBI Special Agent in Charge Matt DeSarno said a team would investigate “the shooting incident.”

An FBI and a police spokeswoman declined to answer questions about who shot the man.

DeSarno said the hostage taker was specifically focused on an issue not directly connected to the Jewish community and there was no immediate indication that the man had been part of any broader plan, but DeSarno said the agency’s investigation “will have global reach.”

Law enforcement officials who were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation



Shortly after 5 p.m., local time, authorities escort a hostage out of the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022. Police said the man was not hurt and would be reunited with his family.

tion and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity earlier said that the hostage-taker demanded the release of Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuro-

scientist suspected of having ties to al-Qaida. He also said he wanted to be able to speak with her, according to the officials. Siddiqui is in federal

prison in Texas.

DeSarno said Saturday night that the man had been identified “but we are not prepared to release his identity or confirm his identity at this time.”

A rabbi in New York City believed to be held hostage in the synagogue to demand Siddiqui’s release, a law enforcement official said. The New

York rabbi then called 911.

Police were first called to the synagogue around 11 a.m. and people were evacuated from the surrounding neighborhood soon after that, FBI Dallas spokesperson Katie Chaumont said.

The services were being livestreamed on the synagogue’s Facebook page for a time. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported that an angry man could be heard ranting and talking about religion at times during the livestream, which didn’t show what was happening inside the synagogue.

Shortly before 2 p.m., the man said, “You got to do something. I don’t want to see this guy dead.” Moments later, the feed cut out. A Meta company spokesperson later confirmed that Facebook removed the video.

Multiple people heard the hostage-taker refer to Siddiqui as his “sister” on the livestream, but Faizan Syed, the executive director of Council on American-Islamic Relations in Dallas Fort-Worth Texas, told The Associated Press that Siddiqui’s brother, Mohammad Siddiqui, was not involved. Syed said CAIR’s support and prayers were with the people being held in the synagogue.

Woman killed in subway shove at Times Square

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman was pushed to her death in front of a subway train at the Times Square station Saturday, police said, a little more than a week after the mayor and governor announced plans to boost subway policing and outreach to homeless people in New York City’s streets and trains.

The man believed responsible fled the scene but turned himself in to transit police a short time later, Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said at a news conference with Mayor Eric Adams at the station.

The 40-year-old victim, identified as Michelle Alyssa Go of New York, was waiting for a southbound R train around 9:40 a.m. when she was apparently shoved, according to police.

“This incident was unprovoked, and the victim does not appear to have had any interaction with the subject,” Sewell said.

A second woman told police the man had approached her minutes earlier and she feared he would push her onto the tracks.

“He approaches her and he gets in her space. She gets very, very alarmed,” Assistant Chief

Jason Wilcox said, describing the earlier encounter. “She tries to move away from him and he gets close to her, and she feels that he was about to physically push her onto the train. As she’s walking away she witnesses the crime where he pushes our other victim in front of the train.”

Police on Saturday night identified the suspect as 61-year-old Simon Martial. Martial, who police said is homeless, was charged with second-degree murder. It was not immediately known whether he had an attorney who could comment.

Major winter storm: South braces for big blast of snow, ice

ATLANTA (AP)—Forecasts of snow and ice as far south as Georgia have put a big part of the Southeast on an emergency preparedness footing as shoppers scoured store shelves for storm supplies and crews raced to treat highways and roads as a major winter storm approached from the Midwest.

In Virginia, where a blizzard left thousands of motorists trapped on clogged highways earlier this month, outgoing Gov. Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency and urged people to take the approaching storm seriously. In North Carolina, some store shelves were stripped bare of essentials in-

cluding bread and milk.

Parts of Tennessee could get as much as a foot (30 centimeters) of snow, forecasters said, and northern Mississippi and the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama could receive light snow accumulations. With lows predicted in the 20s across a wide area, any precipitation could freeze, making driving difficult if not hazardous. The eastern part of the state is forecasted to see wind gusts of up to 70 mph (113 kph).

Travis Wagler said he hadn’t seen such a run on supplies at his Abbeville, South Carolina, hardware store in at

least two winters.

“We’re selling everything you might expect: sleds, but also salt, shovels and firewood,” Wagler said from Abbeville Hardware on Friday. That region faced predictions of a quarter-inch (0.6 centimeters) of ice or more on trees and power lines, which could lead to days without electricity.

A winter storm warning extended from just north of metro Atlanta to Arkansas in the west and upstate New York in the north, covering parts of at least 14 states including Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. Travel problems could extend into metro Atlanta.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 people shot outside Oregon concert; suspect not in custody

EUGENE, Ore. (AP)—Police in Oregon set up a tip line Saturday and asked for witnesses to come forward with any information about a shooting that injured six people outside a concert. Officers responded to the WOW Hall in Eugene after reports of a shooting near the venue’s rear entrance around 9:30 p.m. Friday. They arrived to find chaos and began rendering aid, including applying tourniquets, the Eugene Police Department said in a news release Saturday. “What law enforcement found when they came on scene is what you would exactly expect when six people just got shot,” Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner said at a news conference. “People are just trying to get out of here, their friends are on the ground, they’re trying to help.” Five people were taken to the hospital, and one walked in for treatment after being transported privately, police said. One patient remained in critical condition Saturday; police described the condition of the others as stable. Two of the wounded are female and four are male, police said. No arrests had been made.

Catastrophe averted as fire near chemical plant is contained

PASSAIC, N.J. (AP)—A dramatic fire near a chemical plant burned through the night and into Saturday in northern New Jersey but led to no evacuation orders or serious injuries—just heavy smoke that was seen and smelled in nearby New York City. The fire at Majestic Industries and the Qualco chemical plant in Passaic was in buildings housing plastics, pallets and chlorine, officials said, but catastrophe was averted. Crews battled pockets of

the blaze into the afternoon, Passaic Mayor Hector Lora said, but it was contained. The fire was prevented from reaching the main chemical plant, which could have endangered the densely populated New York City suburbs of New Jersey, Lora said. Nearby residents were advised to close their windows but were not required to evacuate, with officials saying air quality remained acceptable and would be monitored. Some residents fled nonetheless.

Dead wife’s relatives seek part of Robert Durst’s fortune

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A quest for the fortune left behind by multimillionaire murderer Robert Durst is underway just days after his death. A lawyer for the family of his first wife, who vanished and was declared legally dead, notified the real estate tycoon’s trust that it would be seeking more than \$100 million from Durst’s estate and widow. Attorney Robert Abrams told The Associated Press he would soon be filing a new wrongful death lawsuit against the estate and would renew legal actions against others he has claimed helped cover up the killing of Kathie McCormack Durst four decades ago. Durst, 78, died Monday in a California hospital while serving a life sentence for shooting his best friend, Susan Berman, in the back of the head at her Los Angeles home in 2000. He was facing second-degree murder charges in New York for his wife’s alleged slaying. A Los Angeles County jury convicted Durst of first-degree murder in September on the theory he silenced Berman as she planned to tell authorities she provided a phony alibi to help him get away with killing Kathie Durst in New York in 1982.

Asia

Kazakhstan death toll from days of protests now at 225

MOSCOW (AP)—A top law-enforcement official in Kazakhstan said Saturday that 225 people died during the violent demonstrations that shook the country this month, a significantly higher number than previously announced.

Serik Shalabayev, head of the criminal prosecution service in the general prosecutor's office, said 19 police officers or servicemen were among the dead, news reports said. More than 4,300 people

were injured, he said.

The previous official death toll was 164.

Demonstrations started on Jan. 2 in the oil and gas-rich Central Asian nation to protest a sharp rise in fuel prices. They quickly spread nationwide, widened into a general protest against the country's authoritarian government and descended into violence within several days, especially in Almaty, the country's largest city. Protesters stormed

government buildings and set them ablaze.

At the request of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization sent a force of more than 2,000 soldiers, mostly Russians, to act as peacekeepers. The Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday that its troops had returned home, but it was unclear if forces from other alliance countries remained in Kazakhstan.

NKorea says it test launched missiles from train

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Saturday said it test launched ballistic missiles from a train in what was seen as an apparent retaliation against fresh sanctions imposed by the Biden administration.

The report by the North state media came a day after South Korea's military said it detected the North firing two missiles into the sea in its third weapons launch this month.

The launch came hours after Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry issued a statement berating the United States for imposing new sanctions over the North's previous

tests and warned of stronger and more explicit action if Washington maintains its "confrontational stance."

North Korea in recent months has been ramping up tests of new missiles designed to overwhelm missile defenses in the region amid pandemic-related border closures and a freeze in nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

Some experts say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is going back to a tried-and-true technique of pressuring the United States and neighbors with missile launches and outrageous threats before offering negotiations

meant to extract concessions.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Friday's exercise was aimed at checking the alert posture of its army's railborne missile regiment. The troops swiftly moved to the launch site after receiving the missile-test order on short notice and fired two "tactical guided" missiles that accurately struck a sea target, the report said.

The North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper published photos of what appeared to be two different missiles soaring above from rail cars engulfed in smoke.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Beijing reports first local omicron case ahead of Olympics

HONG KONG (AP)—Beijing has reported its first local omicron infection, according to state media, weeks before the Winter Olympic Games are due to start. The infected person lives and works in the city's northwestern district of Haidian and had no travel history outside of Beijing for the past two weeks. The individual experienced symptoms on Thursday and was tested on Friday for COVID-19, officials said in a news conference Saturday during which they confirmed the infection. The infection comes less than three weeks before the Winter Olympic Games' opening ceremony on Feb. 4., and around two weeks before the start of Lunar New Year celebrations in China. So far, multiple cities in China have reported omicron infections, including Shanghai, the western city of Xi'an, cities in southern Guangdong province such as Zhuhai and Zhongshan, and the city of Tianjin, which is 30 minutes from Beijing by high-speed rail.

Taliban pledge all girls in schools soon

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers say they hope to be able to open all schools for girls across the country after late March, their spokesman told The Associated Press on Saturday, offering the first timeline for addressing a key demand of the international community. Since the Taliban takeover in mid-August, girls in most of Afghanistan have not been allowed back to school beyond grade 7. The international community, reluctant to formally recognize a Taliban-run administration, is wary they could impose similar harsh measures as during their previous rule 20 years ago. At the time, women were banned from education, work and public life. Zabihullah Mujahid, who is also the Taliban's deputy minister of culture and information, said their education departments are looking to open classrooms for all girls and women following the Afghan New Year, which starts on March 21. Afghanistan, like neighboring Iran, observers

the Islamic solar Hijri Shamsi calendar.

Teenager arrested in stabbing near Japan entrance exam venue

TOKYO (AP)—Three people, including two students on their way to take university entrance exams, were stabbed Saturday just outside of a test venue, and authorities arrested a 17-year-old student at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder, Tokyo police said. The victims—two 18-year-old high school students and a 72-year-old man—were all conscious and their injuries were not life-threatening when they were rushed to a hospital for treatment, police said. But the elderly victim was later in serious condition, local media reported. Police said the attacker, who was identified only as a high school student from the central Japanese city of Nagoya because he is a minor, slashed the three people in their back on a street just outside of the University of Tokyo's main campus, one of the venues for Japan's two-day nationwide entrance exams this weekend.

World

Jamaica arrests ex-Haiti senator who is sought in leader's slaying

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's National Police said Saturday that a former senator who is a prominent suspect in the July 7 killing of President Jovenel Moïse has been arrested in Jamaica.

Police spokesman Gary Desrosiers told The Associated Press that John Joël Joseph was in custody. No further information was immediately available.

Meanwhile, Jamaica Police Superintendent Stephanie Lindsay told the AP that other people were arrested along with Joseph and that authorities were trying to determine whether they are family members. She said they were arrested before dawn on Saturday and declined to share other details.

"For more than one reason, we're not sharing more information," she said.

Joseph is a Haitian politician and opponent of the Tet Kale party that Moïse belonged to.

"One more suspect has been apprehended. One more opportunity to shed light on my husband's murder," tweeted Martine Moïse, who was injured in the shooting. "In Haiti or elsewhere, the tracking of the wanted must continue so that all the sponsors and perpetrators of this heinous crime are punished."

A still-unreleased police report obtained by the AP quoted various sources as saying Joseph had several links to the attack, with at least one identifying him

among the leaders of it.

The sources said Joseph paid in cash for rental cars used by the attackers and had met with other suspects ahead of the killing, including Christian Emmanuel Sanon, a Haitian businessman and evangelical pastor who had expressed desire to lead his country. Associates have suggested that Sanon was duped by the true masterminds of the assassination. He was arrested shortly after the killing.

The report also stated that the former senator introduced other suspects to Joseph Badio, an alleged leader of the plot who previously worked for Haiti's Ministry of Justice and the government's anti-corruption unit until he was fired.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt arrests wanted man after plane's emergency landing

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian authorities announced on Saturday the arrest of a prominent member of a U.S.-designated terrorist group. According to government media, the suspect was detained after a Turkey-bound flight from Sudan that he was on made an emergency landing in Egypt. The Interior Ministry said in a statement that a man, identified as Hossam Menoufy, had been arrested earlier in the week but did not provide further details. A man with that name is known to be a member of HASM, a group previously implicated in several deadly militant attacks in Egypt. Authorities also say that HASM was responsible for a car bombing outside an

Egyptian hospital that killed 20 people in 2019. HASM, which the United States designated a terrorist group in 2018, is considered to be a splinter of the Muslim Brotherhood group. Egypt has long banned and declared the Brotherhood a terrorist organization.

Protesters clash with Greek police over university eviction

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—A protest march by 1,500 far-left activists in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki turned violent Saturday towards its end, when some protesters threw firebombs and rocks at riot police, who responded with stun grenades and tear gas. Police prevented the marchers from reaching their intended destination, the

campus of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Thirty people were detained, of whom 27 will face charges, police said. The march was the culmination of a week of protests over the New Year's Eve eviction of activists who had occupied a room at the university's biology department for 34 years. The occupation did not disturb the department's functioning and the room had become an activity hub. The department decided it needed the room to expand its library and police broke through a locked door into the room, which was empty at the time. Activists re-occupied the room on Jan. 10 but were evicted in a new police operation the following day. Fifteen people were arrested and their trial has been scheduled for Friday.



FREE TULIPS

On the day stores in Amsterdam and across the Netherlands cautiously re-opened after weeks of coronavirus lockdown, the Dutch capital's mood was further lightened by dashes of color in the form of thousands of free bunches of tulips handed out by growers from a boat in the canals of Amsterdam, Netherlands, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022.

AP PHOTO/PETER DEJONG

Health & Wellness

By LAURA UNGAR
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Get ready to learn more Greek letters. Scientists warn that omicron's whirlwind advance practically ensures it won't be the last version of the coronavirus to worry the world.

Every infection provides a chance for the virus to mutate, and omicron has an edge over its predecessors: It spreads way faster despite emerging on a planet with a stronger patchwork of immunity from vaccines and prior illness.

That means more people in whom the virus can further evolve. Experts don't know what the next variants will look like or how they might shape the pandemic, but they say there's no guarantee the sequels of omicron will cause milder illness or that existing vaccines will work against them.

They urge wider vaccination now, while today's shots still work.

"The faster omicron spreads, the more opportunities there are for mutation, potentially leading to more variants," Leonardo Martinez, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Boston University, said.

Since it emerged in mid-November, omicron has raced across the globe like fire through dry grass. Research shows the variant is at least twice as contagious as delta and at least four times as contagious as the original version of the virus.

Omicron is more likely than delta to reinfect individuals who previously had COVID-19 and to cause "breakthrough infections" in vaccinated people while also attacking the unvaccinated. The World Health Organization reported a record 15 million new COVID-19 cases



Expect more worrisome variants after omicron, scientists say

for the week of Jan. 3-9, a 55% increase from the previous week.

Along with keeping comparatively healthy people out of work and school, the ease with which the variant spreads increases the odds the virus will infect and linger inside people with weakened immune systems - giving it more time to develop potent mutations.

"It's the longer, persistent infections that seem to be the most likely breeding grounds for new variants," said Dr. Stuart Campbell Ray, an infectious disease expert at Johns Hopkins University. "It's only when you have very widespread infection that you're going to provide the opportu-

nity for that to occur."

Because omicron appears to cause less severe disease than delta, its behavior has kindled hope that it could be the start of a trend that eventually makes the virus milder like a common cold.

It's a possibility, experts say, given that viruses don't spread well if they kill their hosts very quickly. But viruses don't always get less deadly over time.

A variant could also achieve its main goal - replicating - if infected people developed mild symptoms initially, spread the virus by interacting with others, then got very sick later, Ray explained by way of example.

"People have wondered

whether the virus will evolve to mildness. But there's no particular reason for it to do so," he said. "I don't think we can be confident that the virus will become less lethal over time."

Getting progressively better at evading immunity helps a virus to survive over the long term. When SARS-CoV-2 first struck, no one was immune. But infections and vaccines have conferred at least some immunity to much of the world, so the virus must adapt.

There are many possible avenues for evolution. Animals could potentially incubate and unleash new variants. Pet dogs and cats, deer and farm-raised mink are only a few of the animals

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Get ready to learn more Greek letters. Scientists warn that omicron's whirlwind advance practically ensures it won't be the last version of the coronavirus to worry the world.

vulnerable to the virus, which can potentially mutate within them and leap back to people.

Another potential route: With both omicron and delta circulating, people may get double infections that could spawn what Ray calls "Frankenvariants," hybrids with characteristics of both types.

When new variants do develop, scientists said it's still very difficult to know from genetic features which ones might take off. For example, omicron has many more mutations than previous variants, around 30 in the spike protein that lets it attach to human cells. But the so-called IHU variant identified in France and being monitored by the WHO has 46 mutations and doesn't seem to have spread much at all.

To curb the emergence of variants, scientists stress continuing with public health measures such as masking and getting vaccinated. While omicron is better able to evade immunity than delta, experts said, vaccines still offer protection and booster shots greatly reduce serious illness, hospitalizations and deaths.

Anne Thomas, a 64-year-old IT analyst in Westerly, Rhode Island, said she's fully vaccinated and boosted and also tries to stay safe by mostly staying home while her state has one of the highest COVID-19 case rates in the U.S.

"I have no doubt at all that these viruses are going to continue to mutate and we're going to be dealing with this for a

very long time," she said.

Ray likened vaccines to armor for humanity that greatly hinders viral spread even if it doesn't completely stop it. For a virus that spreads exponentially, he said, "anything that curbs transmission can have a great effect." Also, when vaccinated people get sick, Ray said their illness is usually milder and clears more quickly, leaving less time to spawn dangerous variants.

Experts say the virus won't become endemic like the flu as long as global vaccination rates are so low. During a recent press conference, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that protecting people from future variants—including those that may be fully resistant to today's shots—depends on ending global vaccine inequity.

Tedros said he'd like to see 70% of people in every country vaccinated by mid-year. Currently, there are dozens of countries where less than a quarter of the population is fully vaccinated, according to Johns Hopkins University statistics. And in the United States, many people continue to resist available vaccines.

"These huge unvaccinated swaths in the U.S., Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere are basically variant factories," said Dr. Prabhat Jha of the Centre for Global Health Research at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. "It's been a colossal failure in global leadership that we have not been able to do this."

In the meantime, new variants are inevitable, said Louis Mansky, director of the Institute for Molecular Virology at the University of Minnesota.

With so many unvaccinated people, he said, "the virus is still kind of in control of what's going on."

By DEB BALZER
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

COVID-19 tests: Different types and when to use them

There are various types of COVID-19 tests that people may choose from to find out if they are infected with the virus.

Dr. Matthew Binnicker and the team at Mayo Clinic Laboratories help break down the different types of COVID-19 tests and when to use them.

Test at the health care provider's office or testing site:

POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR) TEST NASAL SWAB

What is it? This test looks for the virus' RNA in a patient's sample. A sample is collected by inserting a nasopharyngeal swab into a person's nostril and taking cells from the back of the nose. Some lab tests al-

low for patients to spit into a tube to get a saliva sample.

When should you take this test? Make an appointment with your health care provider if you have been exposed or if you are experiencing symptoms.

When can you expect results and how accurate will they be? Depending on the lab your provider uses, you can expect to receive your results within 24-72 hours. The PCR test is the gold standard when it comes to COVID-19 testing.

At-home types of tests:

AT-HOME NASAL SWAB WITH LAB-BASED PCR TEST

What is it? This is a similar type of test used at the health care provider's office, but you

collect the nasal swab yourself and mail it to a laboratory to be analyzed.

When should you use this test? Use this test after exposure or when you begin experiencing symptoms.

When can you expect results and how accurate will they be? At-home tests can typically take anywhere between two to four days for results. Since these tests are PCR tests performed in a laboratory, these results have higher accuracy than at-home antigen tests.

SALIVA PCR TEST

What is it? This is a similar type of test used at the health care provider's office, but you collect the saliva sample your-

self and mail it off to a laboratory to be analyzed. Similar to swab tests, saliva is a specimen that can be collected for polymerase chain reaction testing. Saliva is typically easier—and more comfortable—to collect from a patient, compared to a nasopharyngeal swab.

When should you use this test? Use this test after an exposure or when you begin experiencing symptoms.

When can you expect results and how accurate will they be? At-home mail away tests can typically take anywhere between two to four days for results. Since these tests are PCR tests performed in a laboratory, these results have a higher accuracy than at-home antigen tests.

RAPID AT-HOME ANTIGEN TESTS

What is it? The rapid at-home antigen tests detect certain viral proteins in the nasal sample.

When should you take this test? Timing is key with this test, so try to take it on the day of the event because that's going to give you the best information of whether you have high amounts of the virus in your system at that time.

How does this test produce results? Using a nasal swab, antigen tests can produce results in 15 minutes.

When can you expect results and how accurate will they be? These tests are available for purchase where at-home tests are sold. These tests are faster and less expen-

sive than PCR tests, but there is an increased chance of false-negative results. If an at-home antigen test is negative, continue to wear a mask in public settings, around those who are unvaccinated and/or high-risk.

If an at-home test is positive, you should have a lab-based PCR test performed that day or the following day to ensure the case is tracked by public health officials and to connect you with a health care provider who will determine if treatment is necessary.

Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding, along with guidelines and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date.

Life & Style

Prince Andrew stripped of honorary military titles

LONDON (AP)—Prince Andrew has been stripped of his honorary military roles as the growing furor over allegations that he sexually abused a teenage girl trafficked by the late financier Jeffrey Epstein threatened to taint the House of Windsor.



Prince Andrew

Buckingham Palace said late Thursday that Queen Elizabeth II had also agreed that Andrew, 61, will give up his honorary leadership of various charities, known as royal patronages.

He will also no longer use the title "his royal highness" in official settings, British media said.

The decision is an effort to insulate the monarchy from the fallout from potentially years of sordid head-

lines as Andrew vows to fight a lawsuit filed by an American woman, Virginia Giuffre, who alleges she was forced to have sex with the prince when she was 17. A New York judge on Wednesday reject-

ed Andrew's effort to have the suit dismissed, increasing the chances that he will have to testify in the case if it goes to trial.

"With The Queen's approval and agreement, The Duke of York's military affiliations and Royal patronages have been returned to The Queen," the palace said, using the prince's formal title. "The Duke of York will continue not to undertake any public duties and is defending this case as a private citizen."

Final valuation of Prince's estate pegged at \$156.4 million

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The six-year legal battle over pop superstar Prince's estate has ended, meaning the process of distributing the artist's wealth could begin next month.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that the Internal Revenue Service and the estate's administrator, Comerica Bank & Trust, agreed to value Prince's estate \$156.4 million, a figure that the artist's heirs have also accepted.

The valuation dwarfs Comerica's earlier \$82.3 million appraisal. The Internal Revenue Service in 2020 had valued the estate at \$163.2 million.

Prince, who died of a fentanyl overdose in 2016, did not leave a will.

Since then, lawyers and consultants have been paid tens of millions of dollars to administer his estate and come up with a plan for its distribution. Two of Prince's six sibling heirs, Alfred Jackson and John R.



In this Feb. 4, 2007, file photo, Prince performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl XLI football game in Miami.

Nelson, have since died. Two others are in their 80s.

"It has been a long six years," L. Londell McMillan, an attorney for three of Prince's siblings, said at a hearing Friday in Carver County District Court.

In the end, the estate will be almost evenly divided between a well-funded New York music company—Primary Wave—and the three oldest of the music icon's six heirs or their families.

The IRS and Comerica settled last spring on the real-estate portion of Prince's estate. But the trickier task of valuing intangible assets such as rights to Prince's music was not completed until October.

As part of the agreement, the IRS dropped a \$6.4 million "accuracy-related penalty" it had levied on Prince's estate. The Minnesota Department of Revenue, which agreed on the estate's valuation, also has

dropped an accuracy penalty, the filing said.

Taxes on Prince's fortune will run into the tens of millions of dollars.

Just over \$5 million of Prince's estate will be exempted from taxes under federal law, but thereafter the tax rate is 40%. In Minnesota, the first \$3 million is tax-exempt; after that, much of Prince's estate will likely be taxed at 16%.

In mid-2020, Comerica sued the IRS in U.S. Tax Court, saying the agency's calculations of the estate's value were riddled with errors. A tax trial set for March in St. Paul has been canceled because of the settlement.

Comerica, in a court filing Friday, said that while the IRS settlement was "fair and reasonable," it believes it would have "prevailed" in the tax court case. Comerica said it told Prince's heirs that if lowering estate taxes was their "primary interest" they should continue pressing the IRS and—if need be—go to trial.

Official: Alec Baldwin surrenders phone for shooting probe

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Alec Baldwin has surrendered his cellphone to authorities as part of the investigation into a fatal shooting on a New Mexico film set last fall, a law enforcement official said.

Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office spokesman Juan Rios said Baldwin's phone was turned over Friday to law enforcement officials in Suffolk County, New York, who will gather the information from the phone and provide it to Santa Fe County investigators, the

Santa Fe New Mexican reported. Sheriff's office investigators in December obtained a search warrant for the phone's contents in their investigation into the Oct. 11 shooting on the "Rust" film set at Bonanza Creek Ranch near Santa Fe.

Baldwin was an actor and co-producer, and the search warrant for his phone sought text messages, images, videos, calls or any other information



Baldwin

related to the movie.

Authorities have said Baldwin's prop revolver discharged a live round during a rehearsal, killing cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

Baldwin's lawyer, Aaron Dyer, said his client had been cooperating with authorities throughout the course of the investigation, and the delay in providing information from the phone was no indication otherwise.

Tiffany Haddish charged with DUI in Georgia

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. (AP)—Tiffany Haddish was arrested Friday and charged with driving under the influence, authorities said.

The actor and comedian was detained after Peachtree City Police got a call about 2:30 a.m. regarding a driver asleep at the wheel on a highway, Assistant Police Chief Matt Myers said in a news release. An officer saw a vehicle matching the caller's description and stopped Haddish as she pulled

into the yard of a residence, Myers said.

Haddish later posted \$1,666 bond and was released from the Fayette County Jail, Myers said. He did not release any information about a possible court date.

A spokesman for Haddish did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Haddish was the breakout star of the smash comedy



Haddish

"Girls Trip" and has starred in such movies as "The Kitchen," "Night School" and "Like A Boss." She's also written the New York Times best seller, "The Last Black Unicorn" and hosted the popular television show "Kids Say The Darndest Things."

Peachtree City is located about 40 miles (63 kilometers) south of Atlanta.

MIL's decision-making worries mom of toddler

DEAR ABBY: How do you know when a grandparent is no longer capable of babysitting? Recently, my mother-in-law came to visit and, as usual, she babysat our toddler while I ran errands, went to the gym, etc.

When I returned, it was immediately obvious that my son had soiled his diaper, so I changed him. I could tell it had been some time since he had relieved himself. His water bottle and milk were out of his reach because she "didn't want him to spill it," so it had been hours since he had a sip of anything. There were smaller issues as well. I spoke with my husband about it, but he downplayed the situation.

Am I overreacting, or is my husband in denial about his mom's diminishing capabilities? She's planning another visit with us again soon, and I'm sure she expects solo babysitting time. Is this safe? Should I say something? If so, what? Of course I appreciate free babysitting and a loving grandmother, but not to the detriment of my son.

VERY WORRIED MOM IN COLORADO

DEAR MOM: Ideally, you should have asked your mother-in-law why the diaper hadn't been changed when you got home and realized it hadn't been. Your husband may have minimized what happened because he can't accept that his mother's mental capacities may be diminishing. Denial is common when a parent is in the beginning stages of dementia because the symptoms can be subtle.

Having concerns about leaving your son alone with her is not "going overboard." During her next visit, stay close to home and quietly monitor what she is—and isn't—doing. If she is indeed slipping, she needs to be evaluated by a geriatrician, and may need supervision for herself.

DEAR ABBY: Three weeks after I met my love, he proposed. We were married four months later. We hadn't discussed finances, but he did know my income was higher than his. (We are both retired and were widowed when we met.)

After nine months of marriage, we got into some financial problems, and instead of sitting down to discuss it with him, I did what I usually do when I get scared: I bolted. I asked him to leave and filed for divorce.

Since then, I have realized that I still love him and want him in the last chapter of my life. I know I hurt him, and I want to make it up to him, but he's afraid I'll ask him to leave again. I also love his family and miss them all very much. I would never hurt him again. We have been talking, and he has a girlfriend and doesn't want to hurt her. Advice?

ANOTHER CHANCE IN FLORIDA

DEAR ANOTHER CHANCE: You blew it. Your former husband has moved on since the divorce, as evidenced by the fact that he has a new lady in his life. Learn from his example and move on with yours, because it doesn't appear

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



he will be coming back anytime soon—if ever.

DEAR READERS: Today we celebrate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the visionary civil rights leader who was assassinated in 1968. So many of his words ring as true today as when they were first spoken: "All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face-to-face with another problem." (This applies to many aspects of life today.)

LOVE, ABBY

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



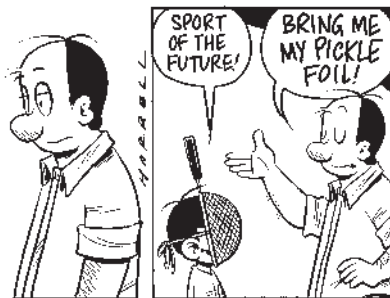
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



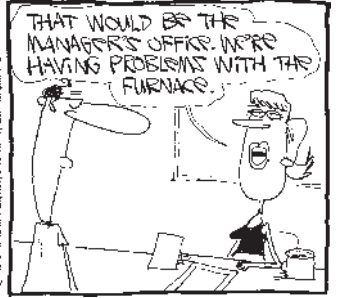
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Goal
4 Hosp.
hookups
7 "Peter Pan"
pooch
11 "Pygmalion" writer
13 Use a straw
14 Bone-dry
15 Teeny bit
16 Capita lead-in
17 Makes lace
18 Tic
20 Laptop connection
22 Deli choice
24 Radiated
28 Reach
32 Battery part
33 King of the jungle
34 Dog's foot
36 Similar
37 Canal vessel
39 iPads, e.g.
41 "In America" writer Susan

DOWN

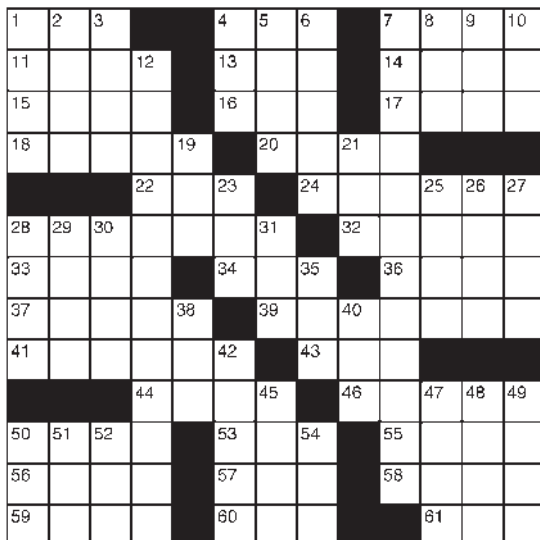
43 —
44 Partially mine
46 Chip choice
50 First light
53 Suitable
55 Roller coaster feature
56 "Zounds!"
57 Three, in Rome
58 Links org.
59 Pear variety
60 Storm center
61 Designer monogram

19 Astronaut
Jemison
21 Ga.
neighbor
23 Super Bowl VIP
25 Stirred
26 Tend texts
27 Cozy rooms
28 Priestly vest-ments
29 Pisa farewell
30 Trumpet
31 Chow down
35 Bankroll
38 Vichy water
40 "— voyage!"
42 Shred, as cheese
45 Agile
47 Mimic
48 Swine
49 October birthstone
50 Cotillion celeb
51 Previously
52 Existed
54 Golf peg

Solution time: 26 mins.

M	I	D	A	S	W	I	N	K	A	T
I	S	A	L	I	F	V	A	F	D	A
D	O	Y	O	U	D	A	Y	B	O	O
J	U	S	T	I	N	O	G	H	E	
F	M	O	H	O	N	O	T	H	E	
E	L	B	A	D	A	C	H	A		
M	I	S	L	E	D	Y	O	N	D	E
P	A	C	I	A	C	I	S	Y	I	P
A	T	O	M	H	E	C	T	I	C	
D	A	Y	S	P	A	S	O	P	A	H
D	R	E	U	R	I	N	O	R	M	A
Y	I	N	P	E	T	E	D	E	N	S

Last Friday's Answer 01/17



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zooey Deschanel, 42; Michelle Obama, 58; Jim Carrey, 60; Steve Harvey, 65.

Happy Birthday: Dismiss trivial matters. Concentrate on the positive aspects of your life and those you love. Bring about the changes that make a difference and add to your comfort and peace of mind. Listen to suggestions, but do what's best for you. A physical move or change will encourage you to follow your heart and use your attributes to suit your needs. Your numbers are 9, 13, 21, 26, 30, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't make a fuss. Tend to business. Take an intellectual approach to your goal, and consider how to go about living up to your expectations. An energetic approach will help you stay ahead of any competition you encounter. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make changes that encourage you to spend more time with loved ones. Be sensitive toward others' needs, and it will bring you closer together. Share your intentions, and you'll receive the help you need to make your dream come true. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Learn as you go. Hone your skills, and share your plans once you are happy with what you have to offer. Refuse to let what someone is doing interfere with your ability to forge ahead. Don't hesitate to proceed alone. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your imagination and the detail you put into everything you do will raise interest. You will prosper if you take a unique approach to your work and incorporate something trendy into your

presentation. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Listen, question, confirm and bring about change. Having a strategy and knowing what you want will help you bypass mistakes and people who can disrupt your plans. Put your energy where it counts, and you'll get things done to your liking. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mix business with pleasure, and you will excel. Share your point of view, and listen to the response. Don't leave anything to chance if you want the result to be in line with what you are trying to accomplish. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A disciplined approach to work will help you avoid criticism and interference. Keep your thoughts and emotions to yourself, and finish what you start. Expect people to judge you on your ability to get along with others, regardless of your differences. ★★

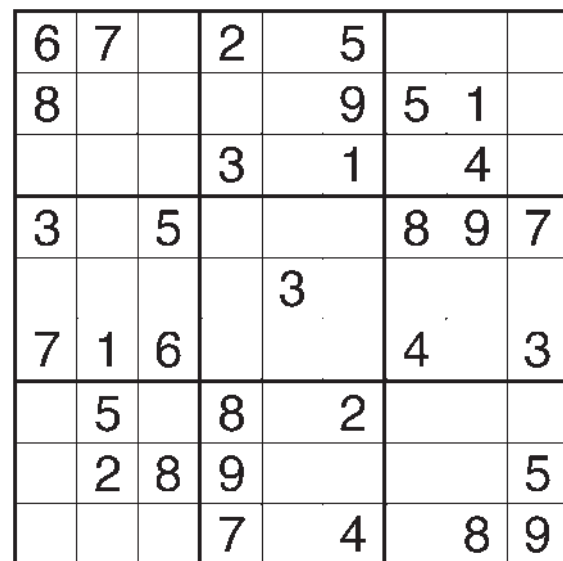
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be receptive to suggestions and ideas. The information someone passes along will encourage you to diversify and create something unique. Getting together with a friend or working alongside someone who shares your vision will help you excel. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider how you earn your living and what's required to improve your financial future. A disciplined attitude and limiting what you spend your money on will help lower your overhead and ensure no one takes you for granted. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



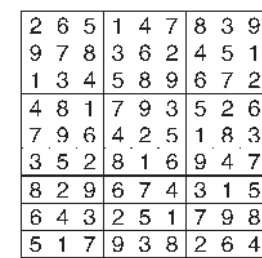
Difficulty Level ★

1/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a unique approach to life, love and happiness. A positive attitude will encourage others to listen to what you say and support what you want to pursue. Share your feelings and intentions, and make a lifestyle adjustment. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of unfinished business. Don't ignore what others are doing or saying. The information you receive will encourage you to rethink your strategy. Protect your reputation, assets and possessions. Confirm information before passing it along. Positive change begins with you. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll instinctively know what's doable. Dig in and put a plan together that will attract individuals who can contribute to your success. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll find it easy to persuade others to help. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are captivating, unique and passionate. You are kind and attentive.

★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BETTY WHITE (1922-2021)

Solution: 9 letters

H O L L Y W O O D A V I D N N
W O H S S E T E J H A L L E N
E F A M E F A L O T S E R D A
C U B G A L G K E R M O E D E
A N O N O (K) U A Y A O C S U U
R N S T (L) L C G M I R O L S
O Y S (A) A N D O R O S C R D M
H O (T) I N C L E V E L A N D A
H L R D N I L A N E H R R M T
S N I A H Y M S L G D E B A C
I O N F T G L A E O I K B A Y H
R I G Y E S U U L N R R L O O
R R R U H T R A N S O A L R T
O A K P A R K M L D E B X S E
M M E D A R A P P O S A L

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1/17

Allen, Animals, Arthur, Ball, Barker, Bones, Boss, Care, David, Elka, Fame, Fans, Funny, Game, Golden Girls, Hercules, Hollywood, Horace, Host, Hotel, Hot in Cleveland, Joey, Laugh, Life, Lorax, Loved, Ludden, Marion, Martha, Mary Tyler Moore, Match, Mayor, Morris, Nylund, Oak Park, Parade, Proposal, Ring, Rose, Sarah, Show, Star, St. Olaf, Sue Ann, Talk, Tess, Voice
Last Friday's Answer: Ravi River

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Allen-led Bills throttle division rival Patriots, 47-17



ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.

(AP)—Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills erased any doubt of who now rules the AFC East.

Allen set a team playoff record with five touchdown passes, including two to Dawson Knox, and Devin Singletary ran for two scores in the first half of a 47-17 throttling of the division rival New England Patriots in a wild-card playoff game Saturday night.

Allen finished 21 of 25 for 308 yards in a game Buffalo scored on each of its seven possessions that didn't end with a kneeldown.

"That sounds like some Pop Warner stuff," defensive tackle Harrison Phillips said.

Added Allen: "We had guys coming out here, we were ready to play. Good week of practice. Lot of preparation went into this one."

The Bills beat New England for a second time in three weeks and rebounded from an embarrassing 14-10 loss at home on Dec. 6 in which the Patriots attempted just three passes while finishing with 222 yards rushing to counter the blustery conditions.

And don't think for a moment Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes forgot. He recalled how reporters specifically questioned safeties Jordan Poyer and Micah Hyde as being embarrassed.

"It was a little bit on my mind," Hughes said, accusing the media of antagonizing his teammates and a defense which led the league in fewest yards and points allowed.

"There was a lot of disrespect coming toward our defense. And so we felt like the only way to shut people up



Buffalo Bills running back Devin Singletary, second from left, celebrates his touchdown with his teammates during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the New England Patriots, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, in Orchard Park.

is to go out there and play football and let you guys sit and watch and talk," Hughes added. "And that's what we're doing right now, playing football."

The margin of defeat was the largest in the playoffs for New England in coach Bill Belichick's tenure, which began in 2000.

Though the winds were relatively calm Saturday, the Bills were hot in frigid conditions, with a game-time temperature of 7 degrees.

The third-seeded Bills advanced to the divisional round to host either the Cincinnati Bengals, who beat the Raiders earlier in the day, or travel to Kansas City, depending on the

outcome of the Chiefs game against Pittsburgh on Sunday. A trip to Kansas City would feature a rematch of last year's AFC championship game, which the Chiefs won 38-24.

Buffalo gained 300 yards of total offense, had 19 first downs and built a 27-3 lead at halftime. The 30-point margin of victory and 47 points scored were the second most by the Bills in a playoff game behind a 51-3 win over the Los Angeles Raiders in the AFC championship game on Jan. 20, 1991.

"I think we feel good," Allen said. "There's some things that we can clean up and work on. But at the end of the day, we moved on, we're on to the

next one and it doesn't matter what we did today. It's what we do next week. We've got to put our foot forward and be ready for the next one."

The Bills rolled into the postseason by winning their final four games to clinch their second consecutive division title. After losing 35 of 40 meetings to New England from 2000 to 2019, Buffalo has now defeated the Patriots in four of the past five meetings, coinciding with Tom Brady's departure to Tampa Bay.

The Patriots limped into the playoffs by losing three of their last four, and were effectively outclassed in rookie Mac Jones' postseason debut.

"Get ready to go next year. There's nothing we can do now that can change the outcome of what happened tonight or whatever, the last, since December," center David Andrews said. "It's frustrating. It's disappointing. Missed opportunity. It's fleeting."

New England's previous worst playoff loss under Belichick was a 33-14 defeat to Baltimore also in the wild-card round on Jan. 10, 2010.

Jones struggled in finishing 24 of 38 for 232 yards with two touchdowns to Kendrick Bourne, including a 4-yarder in the final two minutes. Jones was also intercepted twice in closing his season with a combined seven touchdowns pass-

ing and seven interceptions in his final five outings.

The Bills put the Patriots on their heels from the opening drive, with Allen patiently waiting in the pocket before scrambling to his right and avoiding a sack. Before stepping out of bounds, Allen lobbed an 8-yard pass to a wide-open Knox in the back right corner of the end zone.

Buffalo's defense then snuffed out the Patriots' opening drive with Micah Hyde having the speed and angle to make a leaping interception in snatching the ball away just before Nelson Agholor was about to catch it in the end zone. Jones was also intercepted on New England's opening drive of the second half, when his pass intended for Hunter Henry was deflected by linebacker Matt Milano and picked off by Levi Wallace.

"Guys made some unbelievable plays — offense, defense, special teams," Allen said. "We started off really fast with the touchdown. Micah with the unbelievable play there in the end zone. We just kept the momentum rolling all day today."

"We were happy to get this one."

No series was more indicative of New England's flat-footed performance than allowing Singletary to score on a 16-yard run to cap a four-play, 89-yard scoring drive to put Buffalo up 27-0 with 1:53 left in the first half. Allen placed a perfect 45-yard pass to Stefon Diggs, who had a step on New England's top defensive back J.C. Jackson, a Pro Bowl selection, up the right sideline. Two plays later, Singletary eluded the entire Patriots defense in reaching the end zone.

CINCINNATI (AP)—Paul Brown Stadium nearly shook in triumph. The city of Cincinnati might have, too.

Its latest hero, Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow, merely seemed to shrug after leading his team to its first playoff victory in 31 years, 26-19 over Las Vegas on Saturday in an AFC wild-card game.

"It's exciting for the city, for the state, but we are not going to dwell on that, we are moving forward," said Burrow, who threw two touchdown passes. "This is expected, this isn't like the icing on top of the cake, this is the cake. So we are moving on."

Burrow led an efficient offense that scored on six drives, Evan McPherson became the first rookie to make four field goals without a miss in a postseason debut, and Germaine Pratt sealed it with a fourth-down interception in the dying seconds.

Bengals hold on, finally win in playoffs, 26-19 over Raiders

It was a victory three decades in the making for the Bengals (11-7). After going from worst to first in the AFC North with a generally young roster, they ended that embarrassingly long postseason drought that included eight consecutive defeats.

"Who Dey" indeed.

Coach Zac Taylor said game balls were going to team owner Mike Brown and to the city itself.

"Some of them might not understand the significance of what happened today," he said of his players. "The city can finally enjoy ... this team and take the pressure off of the last 31 years. Today was significant for a lot of people."

Their next opponent will depend on results in the other two AFC wild-card games this weekend.

"It's going to be fun tomorrow to watch the games knowing we have the win," said Burrow, the top overall selection in the 2020 draft who led the NFL in completion percentage this season. He went 24 for 34 for 244 yards Saturday.

Helped by some problematic officiating by Jerome Boger's crew that might have allowed Burrow's touchdown pass to Tyler Boyd to count when it shouldn't have, the Bengals also extended a lengthy postseason drought for the Raiders (10-8). Las Vegas, which won its final four games to squeeze into the playoffs, last won in the postseason in the 2002 AFC championship game.

Cincinnati made it 4 for 4 on scoring drives late in the first half, though with some controversy. Burrow rolled right to avoid pressure and threw from close to the sideline. Play

continued despite an erroneous whistle by an official, who thought Burrow stepped out of bounds. Boyd caught the 10-yard pass in the back of the end zone for a 20-6 lead. The play counted, to protests from the Raiders, who cited the rule that the ball should be returned to the previous spot.

And Las Vegas lost by seven points.

"We just ran out of time today," said interim coach Rich Bisaccia. "We did some uncharacteristic things with some penalties and gave up some drives and didn't capitalize when we had it in the red zone at times. So it just didn't go our way today."

Daniel Carlson, the league's top scorer, made a 47-yard field goal on the game's opening possession, and the Bengals countered. And kept scoring, though mostly field

goals. Burrow took Cincinnati 75 yards in 10 plays, connecting with C.J. Uzomah in the front of the end zone from the 7 to make it 7-3. Burrow threw for 65 yards on the drive and Uzomah celebrated his score with the Ikey Shuffle.

Then the Bengals' defense stepped up with their sacks leader, Trey Hendrickson, stripping Carr of the ball. Defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi rumbled 11 yards with it to the Raiders 10, but Las Vegas held and McPherson made a 31-yard field goal.

The mistakes kept coming for the visitors. Peyton Barber touched a botched kickoff heading out of bounds at the Raiders 2, putting them in a hole. All-Pro punter A.J. Cole got off a 58-yarder, but Trent Taylor's 14-yard return set up Cincinnati once more in prime position.

Ja'Marr Chase, who had nine receptions for 116 yards, kept victimizing the Raiders, his 38-yard reception getting the Bengals to the 6. McPherson made a 30-yarder for a 13-3 lead. It soon was 13-6 on Carlson's 28-yard field goal.

Then came Boyd's TD, followed by an impressive two-minute drill covering 80 yards for Las Vegas, capped by Carr's 14-yard pass to Zay Jones that made it 20-13. McPherson, a fifth-round draft pick last April, made two more second-half field goals, as did Carlson.

Carr finished 29 of 54 for 310 yards.

The crowd of 66,277 fans hungry for some playoff gold had to hold their breath before getting it.

"I think Germaine has made a really big step this year, Taylor said. "I thought last year was a good step, I think this year he has made a tremendous jump. Super reliable for us."

Durant sprains left knee in Nets' victory over Pelicans



NEW YORK (AP)—James Harden had 27 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds and the Brooklyn Nets cruised to a 120-105 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Saturday night despite losing Kevin Durant in the first half to a left knee sprain.

Durant was hurt with 5:44 left in the second quarter when New Orleans forward Herbert Jones was driving down the court and crashed into Nets backup guard Bruce Brown, who fell backward into Durant's knee.

Durant briefly limped around the court before asking to be taken out of the game. He finished with the 12 points and was walking with a limp when he left the arena midway through the fourth quarter. Coach Steve Nash said Durant he will have an MRI exam Sunday.

Patty Mills added 21 points, and Kessler Edwards had 16 for the Nets. They never trailed.

Brandon Ingram scored 22 points for New Orleans.

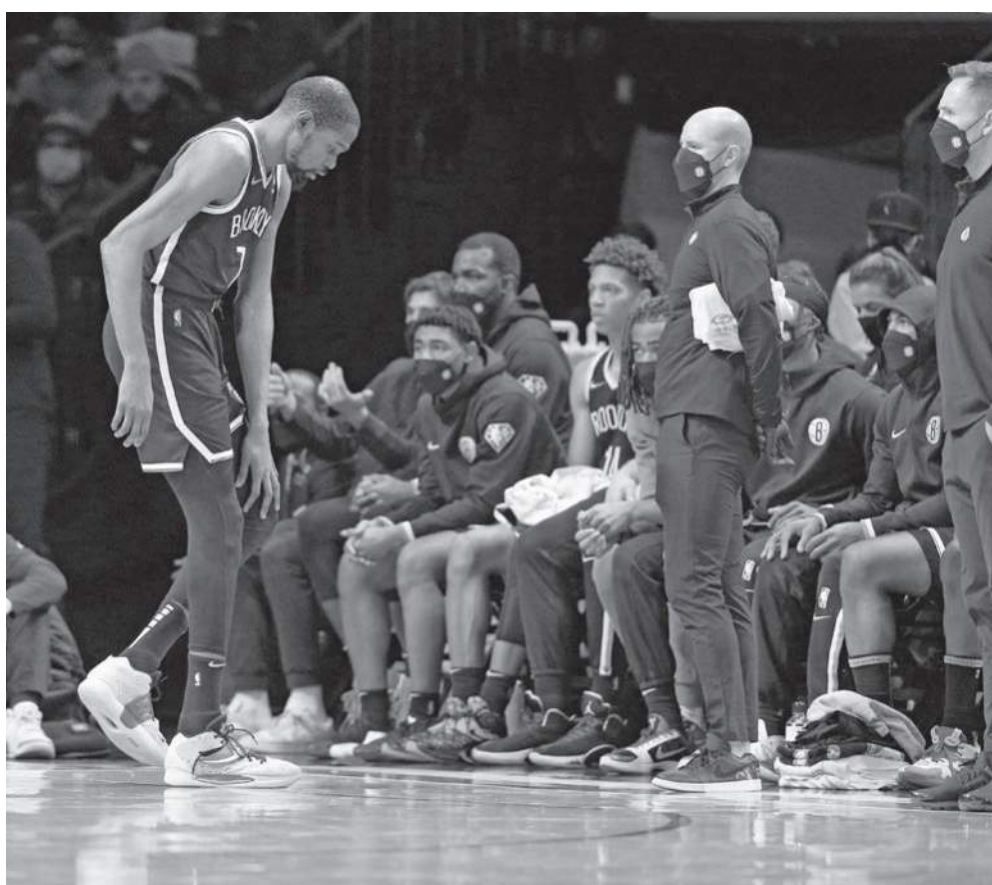
Nuggets 133, Lakers 96

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 17 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds for his eighth triple-double of the season and Denver routed Los Angeles.

Rookie Bones Hyland had career highs of 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeff Green scored a season-high 26 points in Denver's second straight blowout victory.

The Lakers have lost three straight after winning four in a row. LeBron James had 24 points and nine rebounds, but made just 9 of 23 field goals.

Jokic notched the 65th triple-double of his career just 2:10 into the second half and sat out the final 14 minutes.



Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant (7) leaves the game after injuring his knee during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022 in New York.

Raptors 103, Bucks 96

In Milwaukee, Pascal Siakam had 30 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his second career triple-double and Toronto overcame an early 15-point deficit to beat cold-shooting Milwaukee.

OG Anunoby added 24 points to help the Raptors improve to 3-0 this season against the defending champion Bucks, who shot a season low 33.8%. Toronto has won five straight in the series.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 30 points, making all 17 of his free throws but going 6 of 17 from the field. He didn't play in the previous two games with Toronto this season, with the Raptors winning 97-93 in Toronto on Dec. 2 and 117-111 in Milwaukee on Jan. 5.

After spending two minutes on the bench with five fouls, Siakam returned with 6:46 left in a tie game and made a jumper 21 seconds later. After Antetokounmpo tied it again with two free throws, Siakam hit a corner 3-pointer in front of the Bucks' bench with 5:53 left to put the Raptors back in front for good.

Celtics 114, Bulls 112

In Boston, Robert Williams hit a pair of free throws with 9.7 seconds left and Boston scored the final eight points to edge Chicago.

Williams, who tied it at 112 with two foul shots with 31 seconds to go, finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds. Boston rallied after trailing 112-106 with 1:57 to play.

Jayson Tatum led the

Celtics with 23 points and 12 rebounds. Jaylen Brown scored 19 points,

Nikola Vucevic had 27 points for Chicago,

Knicks 117, Hawks 108

In Atlanta, RJ Barrett scored 26 points, Julius Randle added 24 and New York beat Atlanta for its third straight victory.

The Knicks improved to 22-21, the first time they've been over .500 since Dec. 2. They have won five of six, but began the night in 10th place in the Eastern Conference.

Trae Young led Atlanta with 29 points, and Danilo Gallinari had 17. The Hawks have dropped five straight and nine of 11 to fall to 17-26.

Cavaliers 106, Thunder 102

In Oklahoma City, Darius Garland had 27 points and a career-high 18 assists and Cleveland overcame an 18-point deficit to beat Oklahoma City for its fourth straight victory.

Lauri Markkanen made a 3-pointer with 11.4 seconds remaining to secure the victory, Cleveland's fifth on a six-game, nine-day trip.

Garland tied Phoenix's Chris Paul for the most assists in a game this season. Evan Mobley added 20 points, and Jarrett Allen had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 27 points. They have lost six of seven.

76ers 109, Heat 98

In Miami, Joel Embiid scored 25 of his 32 points in the second half and Philadelphia beat Miami.

Listed as questionable to play because of right elbow soreness, Embiid helped the 76ers outscore Miami 66-48 in the final two periods.

Tobias Harris added 22 points on 9-of-13 shooting, and Seth Curry finished with 21 points. The 76ers have won nine of 10.

Omer Yurtseven scored a career-high 22 points and had 11 rebounds for Miami.

Mavericks 108, Magic 92

In Dallas, Kristaps Porzingis scored 12 of his 19 points in the first quarter of his first game in two weeks and the Dallas cruised past Orlando.

The 7-foot-3 Latvian was sharp from the start after missing seven games because of COVID-19. Porzingis hit four of five shots in the opening quarter, capped by a 3-pointer that

barely beat the buzzer.

Luka Doncic scored 23 points to help Dallas win for the eighth time in nine games. Dallas was playing a night after ending Memphis' 11-game winning streak and got coach Jason Kidd back from a four-game absence after his positive COVID-19 test.

Robin Lopez, Moritz Wagner and Jalen Suggs scored 16 points apiece for Orlando. The Magic never led a night after ending a 10-game losing streak with a victory at Charlotte. Orlando is an NBA-worst 8-36.

Trail Blazers 115, Wizards 110

In Washington, Anfernee Simons scored 31 points and tied a career high with 11 assists. Jusuf Nurkic had 23 points and 14 rebounds and Portland beat Washington.

Simons had 26 points in the first half, hitting seven 3-pointers.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 27 points for Washington, and Kyle Kuzma added 16 points and 12 rebounds. The Wizards played without scoring leader Bradley Beal for the third straight game, as well as coach Wes Unseld Jr., because of health and safety protocols. Assistant Pat Delany replaced Unseld.

Spurs 101, Clippers 94

In San Antonio, Derrick White had 19 points in his return from a five-game absence, Dejounte Murray added 18 points and San Antonio beat Los Angeles to snap a five-game skid.

White was 7 for 11 from the field after sitting out in the NBAs health and safety protocols.

Amir Coffey had 20 points, and Marcus Morris Sr. added 15 points for the Clippers.

While waiting on Irving, Nets still searching for answers

NEW YORK (AP)—Instead of taking a big shot, James Harden wants to deliver one—right into Kyrie Irving's arm.

If Irving gets vaccinated against the coronavirus, the Brooklyn Nets become an almost unstoppable offense with three of the most dynamic scorers in the NBA.

If he continues to refuse, the Nets might just continue to be a team that loses as often as it wins at home, where Irving is ineligible to play because of New York City's vaccine mandate for professional athletes playing in public venues.

After the Nets looked as good as ever in a 138-112 rout of Chicago on Wednesday with Irving in the lineup, Harden was ready to take matters into his own hands to

make sure his fellow All-Star guard could stick around.

"I'm going to give him the shot," Harden said with a smile.

A night later, Irving was again away from the team, Kevin Durant got a night to rest and the Nets were routed 130-109 by the Oklahoma City Thunder, falling to 11-11 at home.

On the one-year anniversary of the blockbuster trade that brought Harden to Brooklyn to set up an explosive Big Three, the Nets still don't know when they will be able to deliver on their promise more than half the time.

"Hopefully towards later in the season, or maybe hopefully after All-Star break—well, hopefully sooner than that, but

I'm just speaking after All-Star break—hopefully we can have our full roster and catch a real rhythm to where we know what the hell we got in this locker room," Harden said.

Irving has played three games since the Nets decided to bring him back to play in all the road games where there is no vaccine mandate. They won two, losing Monday when Harden sat out in Portland on the second night of a cross-country back-to-back.

They rebounded with the romp over the East-leading Bulls, with Harden saying afterward that the Nets have "got to get Ky to be able to play in home games."

But coach Steve Nash said Thursday he's gotten no indication from either Irving

or New York City that there is any more reason for optimism of him playing at Barclays Center.

"I've not heard anything at all," Nash said. "So for me, it's just, he'll be playing on the road."

That will help the Nets in the short term. Starting Monday, they begin a stretch with 11 of 14 games on the road—though Irving won't be eligible to play at Golden State because of San Francisco's vaccine mandate.

In the meantime, Miami has caught Brooklyn for second place in the East and defending champion Milwaukee is just a half-game behind. The Nets have gone just 5-6 since a coronavirus outbreak in the middle of December landed

at one point 10 players in the NBA's health and safety protocols.

Nash said the tough stretch has given the Nets an opportunity to learn about themselves. On the other hand, they already knew the obvious lesson: They aren't the same without Irving.

"That is true. We haven't had our whole group. We're better when we have our whole group, in almost all scenarios," Nash said. "Having said that, there is slippage since we came back from the COVID break."

Irving is one of the few known unvaccinated players in the NBA, and players such as Golden State's Andrew Wiggins and Washington's Bradley Beal eventually got

their shots before mandates in their cities would have sidelined them in home games.

Durant and Harden have said they won't pressure Irving. They know that when he plays, the Nets are good enough to blow away the East leaders on their home floor.

Without him, they're even beatable by some of the NBA's worst on their own court.

And exactly halfway through their season, that's about all the Nets know for sure.

"It feels different when we got everybody there. Like last night was how it's supposed to be the majority of the time, you know what I mean?" Harden said. "But we're dealing with whatever we're dealing with, so we've got to just go with the flow, and figure it out game by game."

Djokovic facing deportation, no title defense in Australia



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic

faces deportation instead of starting his Australian Open title defense on Monday, a stunning and unprecedented end to his run of success at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic has won nine of his 20 Grand Slam trophies at the Australian Open — including three in a row — and was scheduled to play in the main stadium at night on Day 1 of the tournament.

But the No. 1-ranked player in men's tennis now must leave the country after three federal court judges decided unanimously Sunday to uphold the immigration minister's right to cancel Djokovic's visa.

The 34-year-old from Serbia was trying to use a medical exemption to get around the requirements that everyone at the Australian Open — players, their support teams, spectators and others — be inoculated against COVID-19.



Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic rides in car as he leaves a government detention facility before attending a court hearing at his lawyers office in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022. AP

Djokovic is not vaccinated, and the government said his presence could stir up anti-vaccine sentiments.

The No. 1-ranked player in men's tennis released a statement expressing disappointment with the ruling, but said he respected the court's decision, would cooperate with the authorities "in relation to my departure from the country," and that he planned to take time out "to rest and to recuperate."

"I am extremely disappointed with the Court ruling to dismiss my application for judicial review of the Minister's decision to cancel my visa, which means I cannot stay in Australia and participate in the Australian Open," his statement said. "I am uncomfortable that the focus of the past weeks has been on me and I hope that we can all now focus on the game and tournament I love."

"Finally, I would like to thank my family, friends, team, supporters, fans and my fellow Serbians for your continued support. You have all been a great source of strength to me."

Australian Open organizers declined immediate comment on the court's decision.

Djokovic's dominance in Grand Slam play of late has been particularly impressive, winning four of the last seven major tournaments and finishing as the runner-up at two others. The only time he did not get at least to the final in that span was at the 2020 U.S. Open, where he was disqualified in the fourth round for hitting a ball that inadvertently hit a line judge in the throat after a game.

On Monday, Djokovic was supposed to play another man from Serbia, Miomir Kecmanovic, in the first round of the season's opening Grand Slam tournament. Instead,

Kecmanovic will face a so-called "lucky loser" — someone who loses in qualifying rounds but gets access to the main draw because someone else withdraws after the order of play for Day 1 was released.

About 90 minutes after the verdict in Djokovic's challenge was delivered, tournament organizers announced that Salvatore Caruso, an Italian ranked No. 150, had replaced Djokovic in the draw and that the match had been moved to a smaller court in the day session.

Third-seeded Alexander Zverev's opener against Daniel Altmaier was moved onto Rod Laver Arena.

Patrick Mouratoglou, an elite coach who has worked with Serena Williams among other star players, said the "biggest loser of this mess is the tournament."

Djokovic's visa originally was canceled after his flight arrived in Melbourne just before midnight on Jan. 5, but that decision was overturned by a judge on procedural grounds last Monday. He spent four nights in immigration detention before the first court hearing and he was confined to an immigration hotel again on Saturday while awaiting his legal challenge.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has defended Australia's tough border policies since news first emerged 10 days ago that Djokovic was in detention, saying at the time that "rules are rules" and that nobody was above the law.

Morrison late Sunday issued a statement saying he welcomed the decision "to keep our borders strong and keep Australians safe . . . Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected."

Latte Built starts 3 challenges for a 'NEW ME'

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Latte Built Gym Saipan has started three new fitness challenges to enable its clientele to start the new year on the right foot.

Dubbed "Jumpstart to a new year NEW ME!" it includes three challenges—the 5,000 Daily Steps Challenge, the 1-Mile Run Challenge, and the Strength Training Challenge. All three started last Jan. 1 and ends on Jan. 31.

"If all 31 days are completed successfully we are giving away one free month of membership per challenge... So three max awarded months of membership if someone completed all three challenges," said Latte Built Gym owner and professional trainer Derek Cutting.

Latte Built Gym held "The Biggest Fat Loss Loser" challenges in the past, but what they've found is the ones who enter and often win are already knowledgeable about getting

themselves into shape and enter only for the cash prize.

"I've found this often discourages those who want to be better but after a couple weigh-ins feel unable to compete against those who know what they are doing. So, these challenges there is no first, second, or third place prizes. The only competition is yourself. You successfully complete the full 31 days of the challenge, you will be awarded a free month of membership at Latte Built," said Cutting.

So far, 43 have joined the run challenge, about 35 have joined the steps challenge, and about 24 joined the strength training challenge.

"I created these challenges to jumpstart people's good habits regarding health and fitness into the new year. We hope everyone who enters and completes the challenge will have learned new things about themselves and will want to continue the good habits that were formed by this challenge!" said Cutting.

SINGLES

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In the girls 14-and-under, No. 1 seed Irin Chung will shoot for a finals win after dispatching Lina Tsukagoshi, 4-2, 4-2. There was also a mild upset in the bottom draw after third seed Hoo Wang got the better of second seed Hannah Chae, 4-2, 4-1.

There was also some shocking results in the mixed doubles 5.0 when unseeded Sam Ryu and Rachel Shin outplayed top seeds Serin Chung and Derek Culp, 4-2,

4-2. Their opponent in the finals will be No. 2 seeds Jessie Kim and David Kwon who fashioned out a 4-2, 4-2 win over Julia Ishikawa and Kuu Nakamura.

Irin Chung and June Yu justified their No. 1 seeding in the mixed doubles 4.0 after reaching the finals with a 5-4, 4-2 win over Sarka Glasjchova and Martin Jambor. They will face unseeded Patrick Vincent Aquino and Jillian Lucero in the championship round after the duo turned back second seeds Wataru Kadokura and Hoo Wang, 1-4, 4-1, 12-10.

In the mixed doubles 3.0, top seeds Yutaka Kadokura and Anne Lee are into the finals after outlasting No. 4 Andrew Chung and Yebin Shin, 1-4, 4-2, 10-2. Taheir Shakir and Lina Tsukagoshi will challenge them after the third seeded team eliminated Richard Sikkel and Thu Tran, 4-2, 4-2.

The two-person women's open will have its finals today pitting No. 1 seed Hyejin Elliot against No. 2 seed Serin Chung. Ditto for the mixed doubles U18 where top seeds Hyejin Elliot and Cody Shimizu will take on

No. 2 seeds Serin Chung and Simon Tang.

The 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis is being held as a fundraiser for Saipan International School's Student Council and is sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

The sponsors of the event are the following: Mango Six Café, Sura Restaurant, Café 670, All Star Sporting Goods and Boarderline, Joeten Superstore, Plumeria Steakhouse, Java Joe's, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Summer Snow Café.

BAREFOOT

From Page 20

himself for long-distance events like the Christmas Island Relay and the island's half marathon and marathons.

The other solo runner that tackled NMA's year-ending race is Jess Gariguez and the 45-year-old former senior IT specialist completed the 13.7-mile race in 3:26:15.

Gariguez said he ran the Christmas Island Relay solo as a way of thanking God.

"It was very challenging. From the very start I already asked myself if I should continue because I started my run late and I only had a few hours of sleep the night before. I told myself if after my first mile I'm OK then I will push through and finish it," he said in Filipino.

Gariguez, who was nursing an elbow injury, faced long odds in completing his second solo Christmas Island Relay as he only had a 12-ounce bottle of water to hydrate himself. Since he started late, there were no more aid stations along the way.

"I really rationed my water in the more than 3 hours I took to finish the race. When I crossed the finish line I was surprised

my bottle was only half empty," he said, adding that upon reaching the Last Command Post he went down on all fours because of exhaustion.

The Mindoro, Philippines native was then thrilled to find out that he broke his personal half marathon record he set in the virtual Guam Half Marathon.

"It's all by the grace of God that I was able to finish this

NEW YEAR

From Page 20

to faster and better outcomes. You can manipulate certain variables in your training in an attempt to force feed results all you want, but the harsh reality is you have to give yourself room to recover.

Effectively, that is the period where you allow the physiological adaptations to take course. This is where smart programming comes into play, but that's for a later discussion.

Some of you productivity junkies who are callous will likely misinterpret this.

I'm not saying don't train hard. No one in their right mind thinks they can make gains with very little effort. But you have to be disciplined

on several fronts, and that includes knowing when to press on the brakes before the stop sign. Not after it.

2022

I feel most have a clear understanding of this, but it's worth mentioning. For those of you who have recently hired a professional or are still deliberating, please know that it's a two-way street.

Trainers and coaches provide a service. And under this umbrella, there must be dialogue. The difference between consistent exchange and a modicum of it is day and knight. We're not Gandalf the Grey who can magically erase your unique hurdles and give you a shredded midsection in a jiffy.



Allen-led Bills
throttle division
rival Patriots,
47-17

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Djokovic facing
deportation, no
title defense in
Australia

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

DESPITE UNCOOPERATIVE WEATHER

Singles, pairs advance to SIS tennis finals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rain didn't dampen the start of the 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament this weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

While co-coordinators Serin Chung and Jimin Woo were forced to shorten the matches because of several rain delays, the finals in all divisions will be played as scheduled today.

"We ran into some problems because of the rain but

we were able to get back on track," said Chung.

In the men's open, top seed Woo will take on No. 2 Morris Villanueva. Woo advanced after beating fourth seed Colin Ramsey, 5-3, 4-1, in the semifinals. Villanueva had an

easier route to the championship following a 4-0, 4-1 near shutout of David Kwon in their semis affair.

Kwon fared better in his age group as he will play for all the marbles in the boys 16-and-under against Cody Shimizu. Kwon, the No. 1 seed, advanced with a 4-1, 4-5, 10-7 marathon win over Wataru Kadokura. No. 2 seed Shimizu, meanwhile, outlasted June Yu in the bottom half of the draw, 2-4, 5-4, 10-7.

In the boys 14-and-under, the Top 2 seeds will also play each other in the finals after No. 1 Henry Choi defeat-

ed Yutaka Kadokura, 4-1, 5-4, and No. 2 Siwoo Lee blanked Henry Yeom, 4-0, 4-0.

Ian Chae upset No. 1 seed Ryan Choi in the boys 12-and-under semis, 6-2, 4-1, despite being only the seventh seed.

He will now go up against No. 2 seed Eamon Tang, a 7-6, 6-2 winner over Jihun Park in the semis.

Seiyul Hong had the easiest path to the finals after her walkover win over Olivia Hwang in the girls 16-and-under. The No. 1 seed will challenge No. 3 seed Yebin Shin who surprised second seed Seohee Lee, 6-2, 4-1.

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Richard Sikkell, left, and Thu Tran in action against Karen Klossen and Cody Race in the mixed doubles 3.0 of the 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament last Saturday.



Top seed Jimin Woo, seen here in a file photo, will take on No. 2 Morris Villanueva for the men's open finals of the 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament today at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

'Barefoot runner' keeps Island Relay streak

» Gariguez soldiers on

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Chang Wan Jang took part in his first Christmas Island Relay more than 30 years ago and was not about to stop come hell or highwater—or in this case COVID-19.

The 70-year-old was one of two official entries who forgot the "relay" part of the race and ran the 13.7 mile-long race solo.

The physical education teacher at Hopwood Middle School ran—again barefoot as his signature—with one of his friends and completed the route from the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi in 2:43:13.

To take advantage of the water stations and catch the

cheering crowd at the finish line, Jang and his friend started the Christmas Island Relay more than an hour early at 5:10am.

Upon reaching the Last Command Post, Jang and his friend were greeted by well-wishers including Northern Marianas Athletics officials and volunteers that continue to marvel at Saipan's "Barefoot runner."

In an interview with the media, Jang said he took part in the inaugural Christmas Island Relay 35 or so years ago and he's been taking part in the tradition "all the way until now."

As always, he espoused the benefits of running barefoot, adding that he runs every day to stay in shape and prepares

See BAREFOOT on Page 19



New Year, new me, and all that jazz

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



By DRE DELOS SANTOS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The world is getting noisier by the minute. People are chirping from all directions.

Amid the chaos, what this reminds me of is the old sentiment, "Those who shout the loudest aren't always the most knowledgeable."

Interestingly, you'll find this rings true across all domains – and you don't have to look very far to see that.

Self-proclaimed fitness experts who casually toss

out advice on Instagram are a dime a dozen. But that's neither here nor there.

I'm at a point now where I don't get into poisonous debates about the nuances of training, so it's actually amusing to me there are still people out there perpetuating nonsense.

Main point here is to address the perception many of you carry about fatigue and exhaustion.

That somehow they lead

See NEW YEAR on Page 19